

# Leaving Your Porch Light On is a Bright Idea!

**Why?** Burglars bypass well-lit homes in favor of darker houses, which they feel are more accessible. Lighting also makes it easier to see and report the identities of criminals.



**Did you know?** Leaving on a 60-watt porch light every night only costs about \$1.75 a month!

## Other Safety Tips:

- Crimes can happen in front of your house or in alleys and backyards, so leave on your back and front porch lights.
- Consider adding a motion-detector floodlight to light up your backyard or alley.
- If you see a streetlight that is out on your block, or another block in our neighborhood, report it!:
  - During the day, call the Citizen's Service Bureau at 622-4800
  - During nights or weekends, call the Streets Department at 647-3111



= a 20% Reduction in Crime

**The National Crime Prevention Council says that studies prove lighting can cut crime rates by up to 20%.**

In the past few months Shaw has seen an increase in crimes against person and property. Feelings of violation and anger can also be accompanied by frustration at not knowing what to do or where to turn for help.

To that end, you are urged to **be vigilant**. Keep an eye out for anything or anyone who acts suspiciously. Suspicious behavior could include

- persons going door to door,
- driving slowly down streets several times,
- slow driving through alleys, as if looking for more than just an address,
- trying car doors.
- people hanging out on a corner for an extended length of time

## • What you can do

- Report problem properties, graffiti, or vandalism.
- Write down the license plate numbers of those suspicious cars and call the police.
- Call 911 on loiterers. With 551 crimes in Shaw last year, (one crime in Shaw every 16 hours) we can no longer assume people who are hanging out on our blocks are engaged in wholesome conversation. They are more than likely casing blocks for people leaving or coming home to victimize, or selling drugs.
- Form a telephone tree on your block to warn your neighbors of urgent issues.
- Take advantage of the Shaw Neighborhood Newsletter that comes to your home. It has great information and contact numbers



## Protect yourself....

- Look around before getting out of your car.
- Look around before walking from your porch to your car.
- Lock your cars and don't leave valuables in sight in them.
- Use The Club, if you have one.
- Join Shawtalk.
- Keep your porch lights on all night

**All people have the innate gift of fear. Take advantage of it. If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Whose neighborhood is this...yours or the criminals?**