



## DENNIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief of Police

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Dear Resident/Visitor:

In our continued efforts to provide a high level of service to you, our residents and visitors to the Town of Dennis, the Dennis Police Department has composed a customer survey. The survey can be found at the following locations:

- The Dennis Police Department website -- [dennispolice.com](http://dennispolice.com)
- The Town of Dennis website -- [www.town.dennis.ma.us](http://www.town.dennis.ma.us)
- Dennis Town Hall
- The Dennis Police Department Lobby
- Dennis Libraries
- The Senior Center on Route 134

You can also call my office and request that a survey be mailed to you. Unfortunately, the survey would have changed the weight of the tax bill and, therefore, could not be sent in this mailing. The results of the survey will be reviewed as we develop a strategic plan for the next 5 years.

Thank you for your anticipated interest in this important project and I wish you a safe and happy 2009.

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Whalen*

Michael J. Whalen  
Chief of Police



# Dennis Police Department Public Safety Survey



**Directions:** Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. All of your responses will be absolutely confidential.

## Section I: Your Community

1. Please rate the seriousness and frequency (to your knowledge) of the following crimes and quality of life issues in Dennis for the past 5 years.

	Very Serious	Moderately Serious	Slightly Serious	Happens Frequently	Not A Problem
Burglary/House break ins					
Assaults					
Domestic Violence					
Unlawful drug use					
Unsupervised house parties					
Animal control problems					
Drinking groups on the beaches					
Graffiti					
Litter					
Unlawful weapon use					
Loitering					
Property theft					
Organized gangs					
Speeding motor vehicles					
Poor driving attitudes					
Drunk driving					
Credit card/check fraud					
Computer/Internet problems					
Skateboarding/Rollerblading in business districts					
Vehicle theft					
Harassing/Annoying phone calls					
Vandalism					
Parking problems					
Solicitors					
Bicycles on sidewalks					
Pedestrian safety					
Public drinking					
Unnecessary noise					
Other:					

2. Have you ever been the victim of a crime *in* Dennis?       No       Yes
3. Have you ever been the victim of a crime *outside* Dennis?       No       Yes

4. In Dennis, have you ever: *(Check all that apply)*
- Stopped to ask an officer advice or directions
  - Stopped to talk to a police officer about a community issue
  - Called the police station to discuss a community issue
  - Been involved in a traffic accident which required police intervention
  - Been involved in a police/community outreach program (ex. Bicycle Safety, etc.)
  - Been stopped for a traffic offense
  - Been questioned by the police and released (other than for a traffic offense)
  - Reported a crime
  - Been arrested
  - Filed a formal complaint against a Dennis Police Officer/Department
  - Called for Animal Control assistance
5. Does your neighborhood have a citizen crime watch group?  No  Yes  
 If no, would you participate in a crime watch group?  No  Yes
6. What kind of security do you use at home/business? *(Check all that apply--this survey is anonymous)*
- alarm system
  - window grills
  - dog
  - sensor lights
  - dead bolt locks
  - exterior/interior burglar bars
  - standard door & window locks
  - anti-open devices in windows
  - do not secure home
7. In your opinion, how likely is it that you will be the victim of a **property** crime in Dennis over the next 5 years?
- highly likely       moderately likely       slightly likely       Not at all likely
8. In your opinion, how likely is it that you will be the victim of a **violent** crime in Dennis over the next 5 years?
- highly likely       moderately likely       slightly likely       Not at all likely
9. How much time do you spend actively participating in the community (community-based programs, committees, boards, etc.) each month?
- 1-7 hrs     8-12 hrs     13-20 hrs     21+ hrs     don't participate
10. In your opinion, compared to other communities in the Cape Cod region, how safe is Dennis overall?
- much safer     slightly safer     about the same  
 less safe       much less safe
11. What do you believe about the prevalence of crime in Dennis?  
*(Please check only one category)*
- Crime has increased in Dennis over the last five years.
  - Crime has remained the same in Dennis over the last five years.
  - Crime has decreased in Dennis over the last five years.
12. How long have you lived in Dennis?
- less than one year     1-3 years     4-10 years     11-20 years     21+ years
13. How old are you?
- 18-24
  - 25-34
  - 35-44
  - 45-54
  - 55-64
  - 65 or older

14. How many people are in your household?  
 1 person     2-3 people     4-5 people  6+ people
15. Do you have any children under the age of 21 living in your household?  No     Yes  
 If yes, please list their ages here: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Do you own or rent your home?  Own     Rent     Other \_\_\_\_\_
17. Average household yearly income before taxes?  
 under \$30,000     \$30,000-59,000     \$60,000-89,999     \$90,000-150,000     \$150,000+
18. What is your current employment status? *(Please check only one box)*  
 Employed     Unemployed     Student  
 Self-employed     Disabled     House wife/husband  
 Retired     Other

19. Please check one response for each statement:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I feel safe at home/business					
I feel safe walking alone in my neighborhood after dark					
I feel safe walking with others after dark in my neighborhood					
I feel that my personal property is safe when I leave home/business					
When returning home at night, I feel safe					
I feel safe leaving my home/car unlocked during the day in Dennis					
I feel safe <i>with others</i> on the Bike path					
I feel safe <i>alone</i> on the Bike path					
I feel safe walking <i>alone</i> in Dennis village centers at night					
I feel safe walking <i>with others</i> in Dennis village centers at night					
I feel safe <i>alone</i> in parks and recreation areas in Dennis					
I feel safe with <i>others</i> in parks and recreation areas in Dennis					

20. How serious is the illegal drug problem in the following areas in Dennis?  
*(Please check one box for each item)*

	Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Slightly Serious	Not Serious	Don't Know
Wixon Middle School/ High School					
Dennis/ East Dennis					
Dennis Port					
West Dennis					
South Dennis					

## Section II: The Department

21. Please respond whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

(Please check one box for each item)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The police presence in my neighborhood is appropriate for the need					
Traffic enforcement in Dennis meets the needs of the community					
The Police Department gives proper attention to minor crimes (i.e. vandalism, disturbances, etc.)					
The Police Department is providing appropriate community education and outreach programs					
Efforts of the Police Department to enforce the law are compatible with community needs					
Dennis police officers perform an appropriate amount of patrolling on foot in village centers					
There is an appropriate representation of female and minority officers in the Police Department					
The Police Department responds to emergency calls in a timely manner					
Dennis police officers treat people with respect					
Dennis police officers respect the rights of individuals and treat people fairly					
Telephone calls to the Dennis police station are handled professionally and courteously					
A formal complaint brought against a Dennis police officer will receive a fair, objective and timely response					
The Dennis Police Department solicits and welcomes community input					
Dennis police officers are respected by the community					
The Dennis Police Department has a good public image					
The Dennis Police Department does its job well					
Dennis police officers look professional in their appearance					
Police information provided in local newspapers is useful					
Dennis police officers provide timely and useful information to persons reporting crimes					
The Dennis Police Department publicizes its services and programs adequately (see question 22)					

22. How effective do you believe the following programs are, or would be, with regard to crimes and quality of life issues? (Please check only one box for each)

	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Slightly Effective	Not At All	Don't Know
School programs					
Bike Patrols					
Police officer assigned part-time at the high school and middle school					
Domestic violence response advocate					
Family services program					
Part time Community Policing Officers					
Web Page					
Traffic Enforcement					
Car Seat Installation Program					
E911 Dispatch Center					
Facility Access					
Animal Control Program					
Citizen Police Academy					
Alzheimer registration					
Victim/ Witness Assistance					
Alcohol compliance checks					
Juvenile diversion program for first time criminal offenders					
Detective assigned to drug task force					
Police accreditation program					
Police Explorer program					
"Directed patrol" to high incident areas					
False burglar alarm ordinance enforcement					
Crime Prevention – Security surveys					
Trading card program					
Long Term assignments of Patrol Officers to a single area of town rather than rotating assignments					
<b>Future Programs:</b>					
Skateboard/rollerblade park					
Youth drop-in center					

**Section IV: Your Comments**

*Please feel free to use as much space or additional pages as necessary.*

**The thing I like best about the Dennis Police Department is:**

**The thing I would most like to see improved at the Dennis Police Department is:**

**Please list the most significant values or characteristics that a Dennis Police Officer should possess.**

**Other comments or expansion of previous answers (use reverse side of page if more space is needed):**

**Mail Completed Survey to: Chief Michael J. Whalen  
Dennis Police Department  
90 Bob Crowell Road  
So. Dennis, MA 02660**

**Or FAX to: (774) 352-1442**

**Or Email: [mwhalen@town.dennis.ma.us](mailto:mwhalen@town.dennis.ma.us)**