

Mission Statement ***2008-2009 School Year***

To build a partnership of caring adults within the law enforcement and youth worker community. Further, initiate positive communication with and monitor student behavior pertaining to the 40,000+ elementary, middle and high school students who use public transportation daily to commute to school. As of equal importance, striving to insure the safe commute for all youth using MBTA services.

The goals of *StopWatch* are most effectively achieved using skillful and respectful interactions with adolescents, in a manner that maintains the confidence of the community and the respect of youth. By blending a contingent of concerned advocates and agencies in a defined area for a brief time period, respective resources coincide and complement one another, reducing the anonymity of youth and increasing the perception of a safe transit system. This exemplifies the concept of crime reduction through community policing which is tailored to address the special demands of policing youth and creating a perception of safety.

The key component for *StopWatch*'s success has been partner participation. It is the principle upon which the program strives to. Alone, no one agency is able to achieve that which can be accomplished when working as a team with various groups that hold mutual interests. Every agency involved benefits from the reciprocal help *StopWatch* offers. Through continued involvement, partnerships are strengthened and resources become more readily available.

The objective of *StopWatch* relies on several premises, which partners must demonstrate in their actions. The fundamental principle is to "Stop" and "Watch" youth before and after school at designated transit locations. All partners are expected to initiate positive interactions with youth while at *StopWatch* gatherings – if nothing more than to say, "Hello, how are you?" It is incumbent on all partners to maintain their self-control at all times. Partners should always keep in mind they are public role models. Channels to resolve partner differences have been established. It is our quest for excellence and professionalism combined with empathy that will lead the way.