

Keystone Towers News and Views

A Monthly Newsletter for Residents of Keystone Towers Condominium

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KEYSTONE TOWERS

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Don't be Polite When it Comes to Security



One World Trade Center in New York City, has a security system that cost $20 million to purchase and install in 2008. Nonetheless, in 2016 a New Jersey teenager managed to get in and roam about for two hours. Everyone knows the security dangers in that scenario. Maintaining secure areas is a problem because people are so nice. They let their colleagues into the building, even when they are not sure they know the person. The most common causes of unauthorized entry into a building are piggybacking or tailgating.

Tailgating and piggybacking Tailgating occurs when one person properly enters a secure door but another follows, unbeknownst to the first person. Piggybacking is different because the piggybacker gets permission. The piggybacker actually asks for access (Hey! Hold the door!). Sometimes, people just hold the door for the person coming behind them.

The habit of courtesy.

Holding the door for someone is a deeply ingrained habit. If that person is carrying something large, like computer equipment, it is virtually seen as a requirement to hold the door. But that is a typical ruse. "If you ever used your access card to get into a building, then held the door open so someone who looked like he might work there can enter, you have participated in a security breach," says Mark Borto, CEO of Boon Edam, the leading manufacturer of security entrance solutions in North America.

Quoted in Bloomberg Businessweek, Borto also says, "The best access control systems in the world can be defeated by exploiting the fact that people are nice and will allow others to follow them through doors." Simple courtesy seems benign but it puts everyone at risk.

No seas cortés cuando se trata de seguridad.

Centro Mundial de Comercio Uno en la ciudad de Nueva York, tiene un sistema de seguridad que costó 20 millones de dólares en comprar e instalar en 2008. No obstante, en 2016 un adolescente de Nueva Jersey logró entrar y deambular durante dos horas. Todos conocen los peligros de seguridad en ese escenario. Mantener áreas seguras es un problema porque la gente es muy amable.

Permiten la entrada de sus colegas al edificio, incluso cuando no están seguros de conocer a la persona. Las causas más comunes de acceso no autorizado a un edificio son el piggybacking o tailgating.

Tailgating y piggybacking



El tailgating ocurre cuando una persona entra correctamente por una puerta segura, pero otra la sigue sin que la primera lo sepa. El piggybacking es diferente porque el intruso obtiene permiso. El que hace piggybacking pide acceso directamente (¡Oye! ¡Sujeta la puerta!). A veces, la gente simplemente sostiene la puerta para la persona que viene detrás.

El hábito de la cortesía.

Sostener la puerta a alguien es un hábito profundamente arraigado. Si esa persona lleva algo grande, como equipo de cómputo, prácticamente se considera un requisito sujetar la puerta. Pero esa es una típica artimaña. "Si alguna vez usaste tu tarjeta de acceso para entrar a un edificio y luego mantuviste la puerta abierta para que alguien que parecía trabajar allí pudiera entrar, participaste en una violación de seguridad", dice Mark Borto, director ejecutivo de Boon Edam, el principal fabricante de soluciones de acceso de seguridad en Norteamérica.

Citado en Bloomberg Businessweek, Borto también afirma: "Los mejores sistemas de control de acceso del mundo pueden ser vencidos aprovechando el hecho de que la gente es amable y permite que otros los sigan por las puertas". La simple cortesía parece inofensiva, pero pone a todos en riesgo.



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How can residents participate in local government budget hearings?

Your input can help shape decisions and ensure the budget reflects community needs and priorities. Let's educate others about our neighborhood priorities and encourage them to support the proposal from our Councilman Kevin Burns and Urban Paradise Guild to continue to protect ACE Preserve.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Get Informed and Prepare

Before a hearing, it's crucial to be informed. Most cities make their proposed operating budget available to the public online or at the city clerk's office. Take the time to review it. Understand where funds are being allocated and where you believe changes are needed. Being prepared allows you to provide specific, constructive feedback rather than general complaints. You should also check for any pre-budget listening sessions, workshops, or surveys that your city may be offering to gather public input early in the process.

Participate in Public Hearings

Public hearings are the most direct way to speak to elected officials about the budget.

- Sign up to speak: You can usually sign up to speak at the hearing site on the day of the event. You will be asked to provide your name, address, and the topic you wish to address.
- Prepare your remarks: Public speaking time is often limited, so be concise and clear. State your position upfront and provide a brief explanation. Back up your points with personal stories or compelling facts. You can also submit written comments if you prefer, which are often accepted before or after a hearing.



- Collaborate with others: Consider joining or working with community organizations like civic associations or neighborhood groups like us, ACENA. We have a continuous interest in the budget and can amplify your voice.

Other Avenues for Engagement

Beyond hearings, there are other ways to influence the budget process. Additionally, you can:

- Contact officials: Reach out to council members or budget staff to express your concerns and suggestions.
- Utilize digital platforms: Many cities now use social media, online forums, and virtual town hall meetings to gather feedback.
- Stay engaged year-round: The budget process is continuous.

By staying informed and engaged throughout the year, you can help shape the city's strategic plan, which directly influences future budget decisions in our city.



¿Cómo pueden los residentes participar en las audiencias presupuestarias del gobierno local?

Su participación puede ayudar a dar forma a las decisiones y garantizar que el presupuesto refleje las necesidades y prioridades de la comunidad. Eduquemos a otros sobre las prioridades de nuestro vecindario y animémoslos a apoyar la propuesta de nuestro Concejal Kevin Burns y Urban Paradise Guild para continuar protegiendo ACE Preserve.

ASÍ ES COMO PUEDE MARCAR LA DIFERENCIA:

Infórmese y prepárese

Antes de una audiencia, es fundamental estar informado. La mayoría de las ciudades ponen su presupuesto operativo propuesto a disposición del público en línea o en la oficina del secretario municipal. Tómese el tiempo para revisarlo. Comprenda cómo se están asignando los fondos y dónde cree que se necesitan cambios. Estar preparado le permite brindar comentarios específicos y constructivos en lugar de quejas generales.

También debe verificar si su ciudad ofrece sesiones de escucha previas al presupuesto, talleres o encuestas para recopilar aportes públicos desde el inicio del proceso.

Participe en las audiencias públicas

Las audiencias públicas son la forma más directa de hablar con los funcionarios electos sobre el presupuesto.

- *Inscríbase para hablar: Por lo general, puede inscribirse el mismo día de la audiencia en el lugar del evento. Se le pedirá que proporcione su nombre, dirección y el tema que desea tratar.*
- *Prepare sus comentarios: El tiempo para hablar en público suele ser limitado, así que sea conciso y claro. Exponga su posición desde el principio y dé una breve explicación. Refuerce sus puntos con historias personales o hechos contundentes. También puede presentar comentarios por escrito, los cuales a menudo se aceptan antes o después de una audiencia.*
- *Colabore con otros: Considere unirse o trabajar con organizaciones comunitarias como asociaciones cívicas o grupos vecinales como nosotros, ACENA. Tenemos un interés continuo en el presupuesto y podemos amplificar su voz.*

Otras formas de participación

Más allá de las audiencias, existen otras maneras de influir en el proceso presupuestario. Además, puede:

- Contactar a los funcionarios: Comuníquese con los concejales o el personal de presupuesto para expresar sus inquietudes y sugerencias.
- Utilizar plataformas digitales: Muchas ciudades ahora usan redes sociales, foros en línea y reuniones virtuales comunitarias para recopilar comentarios.
- Mantenerse involucrado durante todo el año: El proceso presupuestario es continuo. Al mantenerse informado y comprometido a lo largo del año, puede ayudar a dar forma al plan estratégico de la ciudad, el cual influye directamente en las decisiones presupuestarias futuras en nuestra comunidad.

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Preparedness Includes Your Wallet

Emergency planning usually brings to mind flashlights and bottled water, but disasters are also financial events -- and a few quiet steps now can speed a recovery later.

Start with cash. According to Ready.gov, when the power fails, ATMs and card readers fail with it, so keep a modest amount in small bills somewhere safe.

Check your insurance before you need it. Federal officials point to a fact that surprises many homeowners: standard homeowner policies typically do not cover flood damage, which requires a separate policy through the National Flood Insurance Program -- and that coverage usually takes 30 days to take effect.





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WHAT AN AIR CLEANER CAN – AND CANNOT – DO



An air cleaner can be a big help for people with allergies, but there are some things it won't do. It will not lower the radon in your basement, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. It will not fix a mold problem, and it will not do much about the fumes from fresh paint or a new carpet. No air cleaner removes everything. What a good one will do is pull particles out of the air: pollen, dust, pet dander, mold spores, wildfire smoke.

The number to look for is the CADR, or clean air delivery rate, verified by the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. It tells you how much clean air the machine delivers per minute, with separate scores for smoke, dust and pollen. AHAM's rule of thumb: the CADR should be at least two-thirds of the room's square footage. A 300-square-foot bedroom wants a CADR of 200 or better. Buy a true HEPA filter, which traps 99.97 percent of particles down to 0.3 microns. Be wary of "HEPA-type" and "HEPA-like," which mean almost nothing. Add an activated carbon layer if odors are the problem. Skip ozone generators -- the EPA warns that ozone irritates the lungs and does a poor job on pollutants anyway. Look for CARB certification, California's ozone safety standard.

Cigarette smoke is the hard case. The visible haze is particles a HEPA filter can catch, but the smell is a gas that slips straight through -- only activated carbon adsorbs it. No purifier can pull the smell out of walls, curtains and upholstery. Then check these two costs: replacement filters, which can run $50 to $100 a year, and noise. A loud one is a nuisance.

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