



# 10-4

A weekly Q&A  
with local  
law enforcement

Submit your question to [news@owatonna.com](mailto:news@owatonna.com) or 444-2379

## Q: What are door hangers?

A yellow door hanger form with a black border and a hole at the top. It features the Owatonna Police Department logo and contact information. The form includes a list of reasons for a police officer's visit, such as Alarm Response, 911 Hang-up, Welfare Concern, Emergency Message Delivery, Animal Ordinance Violation(s), Other Ordinance Violation(s), Open/Unsecured Door, and Other. It also has fields for Seeking contact with, Please contact Officer, Officer, Badge#, Date, and Time.

Exceeding Expectations

**OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
204 East Pearl Street  
507-451-8232

An Owatonna Police Officer was at this address for the following reason(s):

- Alarm Response
- 911 Hang-up
- Welfare Concern
- Emergency Message Delivery
- Animal Ordinance Violation(s)
- Other Ordinance Violation(s)
- Open/Unsecured Door
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Seeking contact with \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact Officer \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Badge# \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

A: The Owatonna Police Department is constantly looking for ways to increase the efficiency of the officers while improving the service to our community. One upcoming change that we are hoping will do just that is the implementation of a new tool called “door hangers.” Effective Jan. 1, 2008, police officers will start utilizing door hangers as a means to more effectively communicate that they have been at a location. A “door hanger” is just what it sounds like, it is a highly visible notification hung on the door of a residence or business that lets the occupants know that a police officer was there for some particular reason, but was unable to make contact with someone.

There can be a variety of reasons or circumstances where this type of communication would be helpful for both the police department and the public. It can range from notifying you that your garage door was left open all night long, that an alarm was going off at your home or business, or as a way to raise awareness among potential victims if a rash of crime was occurring in a neighborhood.

Door hangers will assist the police department in assessing our effectiveness in the neighborhoods. The department will be able to track the reason and placement of door hangers and develop strategies and solutions to reoccurring problem areas.

The implementation of the door hanger concept is another effort by the Owatonna Police Department to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of policing our community.

**Patrol Sergeant Eric Rethemeier**  
*Owatonna Police Department*