



AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL FOUNDATION

Peace through Strength®

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Step Up America: If You See Something Say Something

Could an everyday citizen have averted the most recent attack on our American way of life at the finish line of the Boston Marathon? While the answer can't turn back the clock and change the horrific outcome of a low level bomb filled with shrapnel concealed in a nylon backpack, it is, from our perspective unequivocally....yes.

We are living in a time when every single American can and must play a personal role in homeland and personal security. It is a simple, yet profound obligation to our republic: to be alert, and in the most objective and responsible way to follow the guidance of the Department of Homeland Security: **If You See Something, Say Something. Say it to 911, Say it to Law Enforcement, Say it to a Fireman, but Say it.** First responders count on and welcome your partnership in protecting what is most near and dear to all of us – our American freedom and our American way of life.

As the tragedies of this attack unfold, and we witness the pain and loss that the families, the runners, first responders and the City of Boston must bear, our hearts ache but our resolve to protect and preserve our security stiffens.

Make no mistake. This is not second-guessing about what might have been. This is a renewed commitment and a plea to take the violence of this horrific act of terror and to honor the victims by turning it into a teachable moment and legacy for all of us. It's time for

an even stronger partnership between Law Enforcement and all of our citizens. We tweet, post, text and communicate **24/7**. This is a request to use those same skills to say something if something doesn't look right or feel right. A dropped backpack, a suitcase left behind, any suspicious activity should be communicated **ASAP**.

The American Security Council Foundation in partnership with former Military leaders and Law Enforcement are currently building a public education program, designed to be shared with schools, communities, service organizations, clubs, and anyone who is willing to help in the protection of our security. We are committed to highlighting and elevating the relationship and the sacred trust that can and does exist between law enforcement and communities everywhere.

Unfortunately it's too late to avert the attack that occurred on Monday in Boston. But it's not too late to step up our caring, our vigilance, our attentiveness, and our situational awareness in all of our communities. We need to do it together, and with the courage and resolve that is at the heart of the American spirit.

The cowardly people behind this horrific act may believe that they have achieved their end of striking fear in the hearts of the American people. However they have rekindled the American spirit and resolve to fight terrorism at every level. They have strengthened the bonds that make us a great nation - the beacon of freedom, hope and justice throughout the entire world.



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