

TOWNSHIP OF MARLBORO

1979 TOWNSHIP DRIVE
MARLBORO, NJ 07746-2299
www.marlboro-nj.gov

December, 2024

RE: NJ State Law for Home Invasions/Burglaries

Dear Resident,

As I have reported previously, we have been working hard to get some meaningful common-sense reforms passed in Trenton to help curb the rise in property crimes which spiked in communities throughout the state following the pandemic. I am pleased to announce that Governor Murphy signed bipartisan legislation raising penalties for residential property crimes and ensuring that those who commit these crimes are held accountable.

While the state deliberated this issue, as you know, we in Marlboro adopted numerous local anti-crime initiatives, and through the engagement of Marlboro police and our residents drove property crime down, resulting in an 80+% reduction from a year ago—outpacing the drop in property crime statewide. I thank you and your neighbors for staying engaged and serving as the eyes and ears of the brave men and women who protect and serve our community.

That said, I have been clear from the outset that the state needed to take action and fundamental changes were needed in how we view crime in this state. Our laws must clearly establish that breaking into homes is unacceptable, and that anyone who commits a crime must face a real threat of jail time and a financial penalty.

P.L. 2024-c.83, effective immediately, takes some important steps in the right direction.

- A new category of crime, “home invasion” has been established with substantial terms of imprisonment and fines.
- Home invasion is also subject to the “No Early Release Act,” requiring a significant portion of the sentence to be served before for parole can even be considered.
- Convictions for home invasion or residential burglary where a defendant is in possession of a firearm or stolen motor vehicle is subject to extended terms of imprisonment.
- A juvenile charged with home invasion burglary or residential burglary while in possession of a firearm may be tried as an adult.

While these changes will help, tougher laws will not stop all bad actors. I encourage you and your family to remain vigilant and continue to take the steps we can as individuals to protect our families and property by locking doors, securing key fobs and setting the alarm if you have one. Check out the Township website homepage for more details Marlboro-nj.gov. If you haven't already, please register for email blasts so we can reach you with important information, and in times of emergency.

As a reminder, ‘See Something. Say Something. We Will Do Something.’ If you see someone or something suspicious or out of place, do not hesitate. Call the police at 732-536-0100. For crimes in progress dial 911.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jonathan L. Hornik
Chief Peter J. Pezzullo