The New Chapter: A Times Sq. Suspect

To the Editor:

A ring of steel for Times Square (“Luck and Vigilance,” editorial, May 4) and the local police joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate violent cells (“The Terrorist Next Door,” by Michael A. Sheehan, Op-Ed, May 4) can help prevent terrorist attacks. But let’s not forget an effective crime-fighting strategy that worked in Times Square: natural surveillance.

When two street vendors, Duane Jackson and Lance Orton, saw something, they acted. As with block watch, the police need the help of an alert public with eyes on the street to prevent crime and terrorist attacks.

Research shows that when others are around, people assume that someone else will act. More money should go to informing people around the country to attend to their surroundings and to act when they see something suspicious.

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Columbus, Ohio, May 4, 2010

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