

## OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### Neighborhood Watch Is...

Neighborhood Watch is a valid and important component of a comprehensive homeland security strategy. The neighborhood Watch program is dependent on citizen's participation and cooperation with Law Enforcement to reduce crime and terrorism in our communities. The key element of an effective Neighborhood Watch program is for participants to responsibly report all suspicious persons and activities to local Law Enforcement.

### A Neighborhood is...

Neighborhoods exist in urban, suburban, and rural communities and are not bound geographical borders, style or type of home. An apartment complex, condominium community or many other factors can determine the extent of a neighborhood, so it is really up to participating neighbors to define boundaries with which they are comfortable.

### Benefits of Neighborhood Watch Include...

By reporting suspicious persons and activities in your neighborhood to the authorities, you give Law Enforcement probable cause to approach those individuals and ask them their business. Criminals and terrorists know that otherwise, they can move through our neighborhoods, cities, states, and country unrestricted, committing crime with impunity.

Mrs. Smith called the police about an unusual and unsavory character who was spending an inordinate amount of time on her block. From her kitchen window she noticed the neighbors avoided or shied away from the disheveled derelict. After checking, police arrest the convicted rapist and returned him to prison for parole violation. ***Without probable cause, Law Enforcement may be restricted from intervening until after it is too late.***

- An effective Neighborhood Watch program provides an important layer of protection and intolerance to all types of external, threatening activity.
- By making neighborhoods safer, parents become role models to their own children.
- By establishing good neighbor houses on every block (street) and protecting each other's child, neighbors embrace the proverb; "It takes a village to raise the child".
- We can improve the quality of life by working together to strip away the veils of fear by stopping crime or terrorism in our neighborhoods.
- By working with Law Enforcement, you become an active partner in protecting your community and your country.
- By building bridges of cooperation instead of walls of isolation, and working together for a common goal, you restore family values of responsibility, love, discipline, and respect. Children receive profound life lessons that they can pass along to future generations.
- By working together to protect each other's child and property we can overcome our fears and look forward to a brighter future.

As a member of a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, it will be your responsibility to call the police about all suspicious activity in your neighborhood. You and your fellow members should report any unusual situations, such as:

- A stranger entering a neighbor's home or apartment that appears to be unoccupied.
- Anyone looking into parked cars, or removing parts, gasoline, or license plates from a car.

- Anyone entering or leaving a place of business after hours, or loitering outside.
  - Breaking glass, gunshots, screams or abnormally barking dogs.
  - Anyone loitering around the neighborhood, schools, or parks.
  - Anyone going door-to-door who tries to open a door, or goes into a backyard.
  - Anyone carrying unwrapped property at any unusual time, or running while carrying property.
  - Any vehicle cruising slowly back and forth on your street.
  - Any abandoned vehicle on your street.
  - Windows or doors recently broken at a home or business.
  - Anyone sitting in a parked car, especially at an unusual hour, outside a home or business.
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### **WHAT POLICE NEED TO KNOW**

- What happened? Where? When? How? Who did it?
  - If a vehicle was involved, what was its license plate? Color? Make? Model? Year? Which way did it go when it left?
  - How many people were in the vehicle? Were they armed? What was their sex? Race? Age? Height? Weight? Hair Color? Clothing? Shoes? Any unusual characteristics?
  - Did they say anything?
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*Be a good neighbor help catch a crook*

*Report possible crimes in progress to 911. Report suspicious activity to 468-4400.*