

A Checklist For Starting a Neighborhood Watch Program

You Will Need

- ☐ A person or group committed to starting a Neighborhood Watch.
- ☐ A planning committee to initiate the program.
- ☐ A list of what issues initially need to be addressed in your community.
- ☐ A means of communicating with the residents, e-mail, fliers, telephone trees.
- ☐ Publicity for the initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- ☐ A meeting agenda to keep things moving and on track.
- ☐ A place to meet - resident's house, apartment, community center, school, or library.
- ☐ A crime prevention officer to discuss the crime issues in the neighborhood and to help train members.
- ☐ A map of the community with spaces for names, addresses, and phone numbers of all households.
- ☐ A sign-up sheet for those interested in becoming block or building captains.
- ☐ Brochures or other materials on topics of interest to the residents.
- ☐ Neighborhood Watch signs to be posted around the community.
- ☐ Facts about crime in your neighborhood - these can be found in police reports, newspapers, etc.

To Add Excitement

- ☐ Mix business with pleasure - allow attendees time to socialize.
- ☐ Seek out neighborhood go-getters to be your advocates and mentors.
- ☐ Work with such existing organizations as tenants' association, or housing authorities.
- ☐ Provide speakers on topics of community interest.
- ☐ Link crime prevention into activities promoted by other groups
- ☐ Start a neighborhood newsletter.
- ☐ Arrange for a Neighborhood Mascot to make a surprise appearance at a meeting, rally, or other event.

To Build Partnerships

- ☐ The ACCPD's &/or Clarke-County Sheriffs' Office's endorsement is critical to a Watch group's credibility. These agencies are the major sources of information on local crime patterns and crime reporting.
- ☐ Local businesses and organizations can help provide fliers and a newsletter, offer meeting places, and distribute crime prevention information.
- ☐ Libraries can provide research materials, videos, computers, and meeting space.
- ☐ Media can aid Neighborhood Watches by publicizing recruitment drives.
- ☐ Look to volunteer centers, parent groups, and labor unions for advice on recruiting volunteers.
- ☐ Places of worship can provide meeting space and a good source of volunteers.



From
§ National Crime
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