

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
Prevention Council

If You See Something - Please Say Something!