

Redondo Beach

Neighborhood Watch 101

An Introduction to Neighborhood Watch

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Goals of tonight's presentation

- Examine the importance, history and benefits of NW
- Crime elements and the IMPACT of NW
- How the Redondo Beach Neighborhood Watch works
- Duties and responsibilities of the Block Leaders
- Steps in starting or revitalizing NW
- Effectively reporting crime



Why Neighborhood Watch?



Strong and Healthy Neighborhoods

- We all value a sense of security as a vital feature of the neighborhoods where we live.
- A sizable number of us (about one in four) enjoy building the formal and informal links that strengthen safety.

*Source: The Allstate Survey on Safer More Caring
Communities*



Strong and Healthy Neighborhoods (continued)

- People are willing to join together to increase neighborhood safety.
- Six out of ten belong to Neighborhood Watch where it is available.

Source: Are We Safe?, 2001, an NCPC survey sponsored by ADT



Strong and Healthy Neighborhoods (continued)

- Neighborhood Cohesion—neighbors who know each other look out for each other—this is one of the strongest attributes for a safer neighborhoods, according to researchers at Harvard University.
- Safety/security is ranked one of the most essential human needs by psychologist Abraham Maslow.





Neighborhood Watch

The History and Benefits of Neighborhood Watch



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CRIME
PREVENTION
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Background

- Neighborhood Watch is a community-based program supported by Redondo Beach Police Department.
- Since its inception in 1972, thousands of communities have established Neighborhood Watches and made *real* difference.



The Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

- Unites the community and increases neighborhood cohesion
- Reduces fear of crime in the community
- Improves crime reporting by citizens
- Increases surveillance in the community
- Prevents and reduces overall crime
- Enhances homeland security



Neighborhood Watch Works

Neighborhood Watch, Apartment Watch, Harbor Watch, Dock Watch, Business Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Campus Watch, Crime Watch— whatever the name, it's one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to prevent crime.



Neighborhood Watch Works (continued)

- Birmingham, AL: Thirteen out of 15 neighborhoods had experienced high rates of burglary. After Neighborhood Watch started, 12 of the 15 had no burglaries.
- Lakewood, CO: Burglaries dropped 77 percent after Neighborhood Watch was implemented.
- Cypress, CA: Neighborhood Watch cut burglaries by 52 percent and thefts by 45 percent. The program saved police an estimated \$79,000.



Starting and Revitalizing a Neighborhood Watch Program in Redondo Beach



Partnership between NW and Police

"The public are the police and the police are the public. The police are only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties that are incumbent upon every citizen in the interest of community welfare and existence." (Sir Robert Peel, father of modern law enforcement, 1829)



Crime

The three elements of crime

VICTIM'S CHOICES

- iPods, GPS, Cell Phones in Cars
- Unlocked doors and windows or homes, garages or vehicles



COMMUNITY CHOICES

- Juveniles out after hours/truancy
- Parole or probation in lieu of jail time

TARGET HARDENING

- Alarms
- Prevention

CRIMINAL'S BEHAVIOR

- Addiction to narcotics/alcohol
- Wants the latest item
- Behavior seeking attention

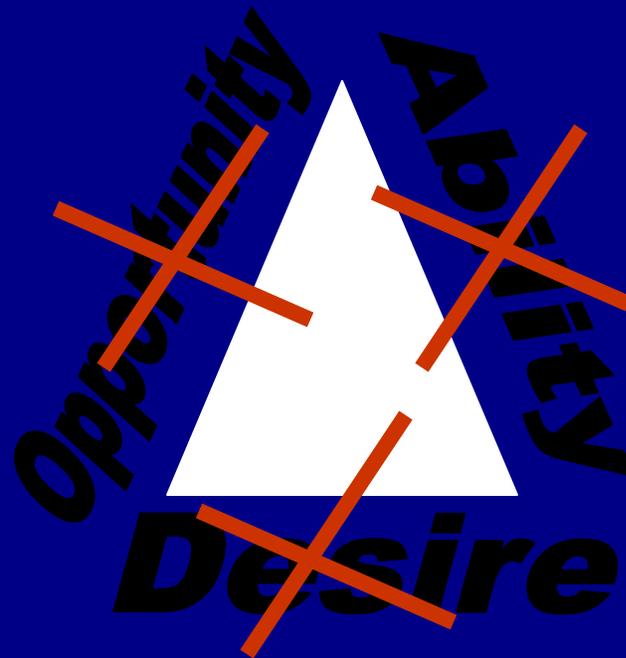


How NW effects crime

NW can break the triangle

- NW can change the behavior of the block

- NW signs
- Knowledge of rapid reporting of crime
- Local criminals know to go elsewhere



- NW brings neighbors together and knowing who is out and about
- NW can take a stand against career criminals and the need for jail/prison time in lieu of probation/early release
- Target hardening



Basic Components of RB Neighborhood Watch

- Organization: Redondo Beach Police – Community Based Policing Unit - Block Leader – Neighbors on the block watch group
- Communications: email, phone tree, meetings, special outreach, E-Zine, Crime Mapping and partnering with other neighborhood groups
- Visibility: Neighborhood Watch signs on the street and in windows (Operation Identify)





Organizing Your Neighborhood Watch Program



RB Block Captain Responsibilities

- Host an annual NW/Crime Prevention meeting
- Develop an email/phone tree for your block
- Serve as a liaison between your block and the RBPD to communicate safety tips, crime alerts, disaster preparedness and crime prevention
- Organize an annual “get to know your neighbors” event - Block party
- Help identify block problems and arrange to fix them (www.redondo.org customer service link)



Qualities of a Great Leader

Look for people who

- Will sustain the effort
- Get along well with people and listen constructively
- Use good communication and negotiating skills
- Will delegate tasks
- Conduct meetings effectively and efficiently
- Have a long-range vision of neighborhood and community improvement
- See the position as a civic duty, not a power trip or a chance for personal gain



Qualities of a Good Leader

(continued)

- Leaders should not serve forever. Rotate leadership periodically.
- Even the most energetic and dedicated leaders lose stamina.
- New leadership needs to be constantly trained to move up.
- Appreciate and reward leaders. Say thanks publicly.



How to Start or Revitalize a Neighborhood Watch

- Every community resident—young or old, single or married, renter or home owner, business or household—can and should join a Neighborhood Watch.



How To Start or Revitalize Neighborhood Watch (continued)

- Involve local law enforcement (pre-plan)
 - Coordinate for Officer attendance
 - Crime prevention information/Crime information
- Arrange a kickoff meeting
 - Date
 - Location
 - Invites to block
 - Coordinate with PD - can help facilitate



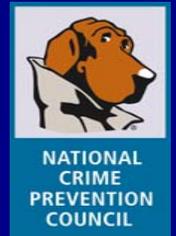
The First Meeting

- For a successful first meeting
 - Advertise the meeting in advance - post invitations throughout the neighborhood
 - Coordinate refreshments – sealed from the store
 - Arrange for a large enough meeting space, one that is accessible to people with disabilities
 - Common space/City facility/driveway/does not have to be in a house
 - Establish purposes, objectives, time limit (agenda)
 - Meet and greet - phone/email tree
 - Train block on crime reporting procedures



The First Meeting (continued)

- Make it a team effort -share concerns
- Decide to address one or two important issues to start.
- Ask for volunteers and assign tasks.
- Agree on a follow up meeting date



Tips for Keeping Your Neighborhood Safe (continued)

- Watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and taking steps in keeping the community safe.
 - Opportunity/Ability/Desire for crime
 - Getting to know neighbors
 - Community spirit and pride



Block Party

- City of Redondo Beach has two BBQs available for NW events at no charge
- Coordinate with RBFD to reserve
 - Application is in packet or at www.redondo.org
 - Coordinate with PD - CBO for Officer to attend



Observation



- At first meeting teach residents the best ways to observe and report crime.
- Have as many residents as possible take part in this meeting.
- Include youth, adults, and seniors.
- Remember that all see the neighborhood from different perspectives.



Observation (continued)

- Neighbors should look and listen for
 - Someone screaming or shouting for help
 - Someone looking into windows and parked cars
 - Unusual noises
 - Property being taken from closed businesses or from houses where no one is at home
 - Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or with no lights on



Observation (continued)

- Neighbors should also look for
 - Anyone being forced into a vehicle
 - A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child
 - Abandoned cars
 - Any unusual activity in businesses, alleys, isolated areas, and notorious problem spots in your neighborhood



Reporting Crime

- Stay calm and safe
- It is important not to panic even though you might be scared
- Call the police immediately!
 - Important phone numbers
 - 911
 - 310-379-5411 Cell Phones in Redondo Beach



Reporting Crime

- Provide the following to dispatch
 - Location of the crime
 - The type of crime
 - Still in progress
 - Whether there are injuries
 - Where the criminal/s went
 - Number of criminals



Reporting Crime

■ Describe the suspect/s:

- Sex
- Race
- Age
- Height
- Hair Color/Style
- Facial Hair
- Complexion
- Teeth
- Tattoos/accents/scars
- Limp/Gait
- Jewelry

■ Clothing (color and style)

- Top-down
 - Hat
 - Shirt/jacket/sweater
 - Pants/shorts/belt
 - Shoes/socks

■ Weapon

- Gun - Automatic, Revolver or Rifle
- Knife
- Bat

■ Page 13 of NW Guide



Reporting Crime - Vehicle

- Describe the vehicle/s:
 - Color
 - Make
 - Model
 - Number of doors
 - License plate
 - Stickers
 - Dents
 - Decals
 - Number of occupants
- Direction of travel
 - Provide the street the vehicle is on
 - Cross street
 - North/South/East/West
 - Use landmark if needed



Reporting Crime (continued)

- You may be asked what, when, where, why, who and how the crime happened
- Do not touch or move possible evidence
- Let the Officer know everything you observed
- You may be asked to make a complaint or testify in court-Remember, if you don't help the police, the criminal might hurt someone else
- The police may ask you to attend a lineup or look through collections of "mug shots" to try to identify the person you saw commit the crime



Group Activity



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Are You a Good Witness?

- The following exercise will help you learn how to know important details that will be helpful when you report a crime.



Activity Debrief

■ Ask these questions:

- “What was difficult?”
- “What was easy?”
- “Why is good reporting important?”
- “What are the obstacles to good reporting?”
- “How does good reporting help your community?”
- “How does it help police?”



Operation Identification

- Operation Identification is a burglary/theft prevention program that involves indelibly marking and/or engraving property with traceable ownership identification
- It has four purposes: to deter crime, to provide positive identification, to help with prosecution, and to aid property recovery
- RBPD 310-318-0612
- Encourage residents to participate in Operation Identification



Home Alarms

- Effect the ability of the criminal to do the crime by being a deterrent
- Audible helps scare the bad guy away minimizing loss
- Assist the Police in catching the criminal
- Only works if it is activated
- False alarms interfere with Police activities
- Permit is required for alarm in RB



Security Cameras

- Proactive security – effects ability of criminal to do the crime
- System cost can vary dramatically
 - Resolution, zoom capabilities, rotation
- Data storage-how long do you keep video?
- Placement of cameras – hidden vs visible





Questions and Answers

