

## **Neighborhood Watch**

Neighborhood Watch is a group of citizens organized with the goal of taking an active role in making their community healthy and crime free, by working with law enforcement and other City resources. A Neighborhood Watch Program is built upon a foundation of communication among neighbors in order to identify community concerns and criminal activity, and to work towards improving the quality of life in the community. The program operates through a communications chain that includes the police, block captains and residents.

The program is managed by a Neighborhood Watch Committee, and the goal is to have one block captain per block or apartment building, who will be responsible for disseminating information by email, fax or flyer to residents. This information can include crime alerts and other messages from the police, City officials or neighbors.

### **THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM WILL HELP RESIDENTS LEARN:**

- Techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized.
- How to recognize and report suspicious activity.
- How to make homes more secure and properly identify property.
- How to maintain the appearance of the neighborhood.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- Coordinating overall plan for the program.
- Recruiting and training block captains.
- Meeting with block captains to discuss neighborhood issues and strategies to address them.
- Distributing information to block captains and to listservs.

### **BLOCK CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- Maintaining a list of all block residents with up-to-date contact information.
- Determining a "buddy" to deliver messages for those who don't have email or fax.
- Distributing messages and educational materials to residents.
- Organizing meetings as necessary with neighbors to discuss issues of concern.
- Calling the police for alley surveillance, special attention to other areas, etc.
- Attending occasional community/police meetings.