

# 10

## TEN THINGS YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS CAN DO

Work with public agencies and other organizations — neighborhood-based or community-wide — on solving common problems. Don't be shy about letting them know what your community needs.

Make sure that all the youth in the neighborhood have positive ways to spend their spare time, through organized recreation, tutoring programs, part-time work, and volunteer opportunities.

Set up a Neighborhood Watch or a community patrol, working with police. Make sure your streets and homes are well lighted.

Build a partnership with police, focused on solving problems instead of reacting to crises. Make it possible for neighbors to report suspicious activity or crimes without fear of retaliation.

Take advantage of "safety in numbers" to hold rallies, marches, and other group activities to show you're determined to drive out crime and drugs.

Clean up the neighborhood! Involve everyone — teens, children, senior citizens. Graffiti, litter, abandoned cars, and run-down buildings tell criminals that you don't care about where you live or each other. Call the city public works department and ask for help in cleaning up.

Ask local officials to use new ways to get criminals out of your building or neighborhood. These include enforcing anti-noise laws, housing codes, health and fire codes, anti-nuisance laws, and drug-free clauses in rental leases.

Form a Court Watch to help support victims and witnesses and to see that criminals get fairly punished.

Work with schools to establish drug-free, gun-free zones; work with recreation officials to do the same for parks.

Develop and share a phone list of local organizations that can provide counseling, job training, guidance, and other services that neighbors might need.

**CITY OF RICHMOND CRIME PREVENTION NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Established: \_\_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE																			
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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

BC: Block Captain  
A: Alternate

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## **CRITERIA FOR CRIME WATCH STREET SIGNS**

- A. Each community must participate in the City of Richmond Crime Prevention Program by holding regular neighborhood watch meetings in the respective communities; by appointing two (2) members--one regular representative and one alternate representative--to attend monthly Crime Prevention Task Force meetings on a continuous basis.
- B. There should be a minimum of five (5) city blocks organized, with 60% of families (homes) participating. In complexes such as Deliverance Temple Apartments, Hacienda Apartments, etc., participation of the residence manager is required, along with a minimum of five (5) block captains.
- C. As an organizing incentive, one (1) sign will be placed on a block that has been organized for at least six (6) months with 60% participation within that block, and with an agreement to help organize other surrounding blocks. Thereafter, a sign will be placed at each entrance to the neighborhood when 60% organization of the five (5) block area has been attained.

An incentive sign may be placed only if the organized block becomes a member of the Crime Prevention Task Force; sends a representative to the monthly Task Force meetings continuously; holds block watch group meetings on an on-going basis.

- D. Window signs and stickers will be provided for each home participating in the crime watch program.
- E. Should a neighborhood become inactive, the crime watch sign may be removed by consent of the Task Force, acting on recommendation of the Executive Committee.

It should be noted that since Operation Identification is an integral part of our neighborhood watch program. Accordingly, personal property should be engraved and/or photographed, and an inventory record should be made for easy identification by authorities should your property be stolen and subsequently recovered. In California your best identification number is your driver license or DMV number. These numbers can be traced almost instantaneously to the property owner.

**REMEMBER: A SIGN ALONE WILL NOT DETER CRIMES BUT AN ORGANIZED NEIGHBORHOOD WILL!**

# Ten Things Kids Can Do

- **Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons. Don't stand around and form an audience when others are arguing. A group makes a good target for violence.**

- **Learn safe routes for walking in the neighborhood, and know good places to seek help. Trust feelings, and if there's a sense of danger, get away fast.**

- **Report any crimes or suspicious actions to the police, school authorities, and parents. Be willing to testify if needed.**

- **Don't open the door to anyone you don't know and trust.**

- **Never go anywhere with someone you don't know and trust.**

- **If someone tries to abuse you, say no, get away, and tell a trusted adult. Remember, it's not the victim's fault.**

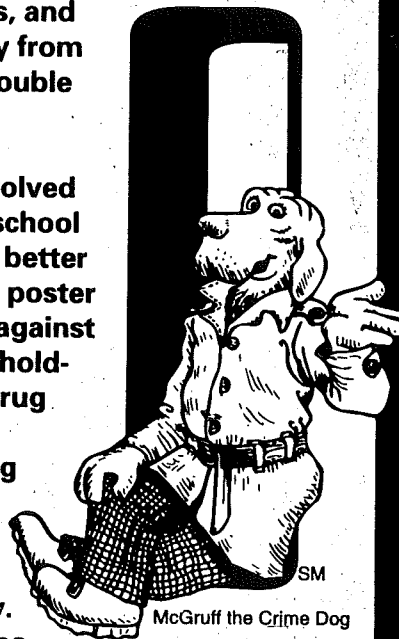
- **Don't use alcohol or other drugs, and stay away from places and people associated with them.**

- **Stick with friends who are also against violence and drugs, and stay away from known trouble spots.**

- **Get involved to make school safer and better — having poster contests against violence, holding anti-drug rallies, counseling peers, settling disputes peacefully.**

**If there's no program, help start one!**

- **Help younger children learn to avoid being crime victims. Set a good example, and volunteer to help with community efforts to stop crime.**



McGruff the Crime Dog

## To Stop Violence

National Crime Prevention Council  
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006-3817

The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign is substantially funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



# A Checklist For Starting a Neighborhood Watch Program

## You Will Need

- A person or group of people 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.g., 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 or apartment, community center, school, 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.
- Brochures or other materials on topics of interest to the residents.
- A sign-up sheet for those interested in becoming block or building captains.
- Neighborhood Watch signs to be posted around the community. Some jurisdictions require a minimum number of participants before Neighborhood Watch signs can be posted.
- Facts about crime in your neighborhood. (These can be found in police reports, newspapers, and residents' perception about crime. Often residents' opinions are not supported by facts, and accurate information can reduce fear of crime.)

## To Add Excitement

- Mix business with pleasure — allow attendees time to socialize.
- Seek out neighborhood go-getters — civic leaders and elected officials — to be your advocates and mentors.
- Work with such existing organizations as citizens' association, tenants' association, or housing authorities.
- Provide speakers on topics of community interest.
- Link crime prevention into activities promoted by other groups: child protection, anti-vandalism projects, community service, arson prevention, recreation activities for young people.
- Start a neighborhood newsletter.
- Arrange for McGruff to make a surprise appearance at a meeting, rally, or other event.

## To Build Partnerships

- The police or sheriffs' office's endorsement is critical to a Watch group's credibility. These agencies are the major sources of information on local crime patterns, crime prevention education, and crime reporting.
- Local businesses and organizations can help provide fliers and a newsletter, offer meeting places, and distribute crime prevention information. Ask an electronics store to donate cellular phones.
- 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.
- Teenagers are valuable resources. They can be an integral part of a citizens' patrol including biking and rollerblading to scout the neighborhood.
- Places of worship can provide meeting space and a good source of volunteers.