

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM – 2ND MEETING

Questions for discussion and references with additional information

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What are we most concerned about? What ideas do we have for dealing with these concerns?

What do we want to do, if anything, in addition to the things that our Safety Committee is already doing, e.g., sharing safety tips, posting information from our police department, encouraging residents to report incidents to the police and also on the listserv, etc.

Do we want to establish a formal Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP), that involves an organizational structure that would be separate from our residents association, with a leader, block captains, members, and a liaison with the county police department (2nd District)?

The list of five information sources below provides relevant information in accessible and brief formats. Together they can be scanned in less than an hour.

1. What is Neighborhood Watch
<https://www.nnw.org/what-neighborhood-watch>
2. Organizing a Neighborhood Watch Program
<https://www.nnw.org/organizing-your-neighborhood-watch>
3. Neighborhood Watch Toolkit
<https://www.nnw.org/toolkit>
4. Nextdoor: A Virtual Neighborhood Watch Guide
<https://nnw.org/sites/default/files/Nextdoor%20Virtual%20Neighborhood%20Watch%20Guide.pdf> (Note: the PRA Safety Committee tracks postings on Nextdoor and posts them to our listserv)
5. Purchasing signs
<https://www.nnwi.org/>

These sources are examples of NWPs in nearby municipalities (+ one on the West Coast):

- NWP in Laurel, MD
<https://www.cityoflaurel.org/police/community-info/neighborhood-watch-program>
- NWP in Bowie, MD
<https://www.cityofbowie.org/334/Neighborhood-Watch>

- NWP in Annapolis, MD

<https://www.annapolis.gov/540/Neighborhood-Watch-Program>

- Moses Lake, Washington

<https://www.cityofml.com/DocumentCenter/View/2590/Block-Watch-Responsibilities--Member-pdf?bidId=>

These sources provide summaries of some of the assessments of NWPs

Citizens Against Crime - An Assessment of the Neighborhood Watch Program in Washington, DC 1983

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/citizens-against-crime-assessment-neighborhood-watch-program>

The Effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch (2008)

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.4073/csr.2008.18>

See Main Results and Reviewers' Conclusions, first page.

U.S. Justice Department: Does Neighborhood Watch reduce crime? (2008)

<https://journalistsresource.org/politics-and-government/us-justice-department-neighborhood-watch-reduce-crime/>

How Effective Are Community Watch Programs? (2020)

"While there are various studies on this topic, meta-analysis found that community watches were associated with a relative reduction in crime of about 16%."

<https://brinkshome.com/smartcenter/how-effective-are-community-watch-programs>