



POWER POINT PRESENTATION AGENDA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

- **Introduction to Neighborhood Watch**
 1. Overview of the inception of neighborhood watch
 2. Purpose and concepts for neighborhood watch groups
 3. Who can participate in a neighborhood watch?
 4. Structure for any neighborhood watch program
 5. How you to implement partnerships between neighborhood watch residents and local law enforcement
 6. Community Policing (What it is and how it works)
 7. Overview on Vigilantism – why it doesn't work.
 8. Crime Prevention - How to work with the community to incorporate neighborhood watch and other crime prevention initiatives.
 9. How the Fort Myers Police Department, Crime Prevention unit implements and provides services, to all the neighborhood watch groups within the City of Fort Myers, Florida.
 10. Web links and other crime prevention organizations



Task Force on CITIZEN SAFETY and PROTECTION

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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Introduction to Neighborhood Watch

- Since its inception in 1972, neighborhood watch was introduced as a community based program by the NSA National Sheriffs Association .
- Law enforcement agencies, private organizations, individual citizens all come together showing their partnership throughout the nation, with street signs, decals, block parties and service events. Encouraging neighborhood watch programs.

Purpose and Concepts for Neighborhood Watch

- In essence neighborhood watch is a crime prevention program, that encourages education and common sense. The overall purpose is to teach citizens how to report suspicious activity. It provides community residents the opportunity to make their community safer and improve the quality of life. While fostering a positive relationship with their local sheriff/police department.
- The concepts are simple:
 1. Encourage a sense of security and ownership of ones community
 2. Reduce Crime
 3. Get to know your neighbors
 4. Knowledge of your crime trends in your neighborhood

Who can participate in 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.
- All are welcome to join. Regardless of sex, gender, age, race or ethnicity.

Structure sample for any Neighborhood Watch Program

- **Organization:** planning committee, chair/coordinator, block captain
- **Communications:** email, phone tree, meetings, special outreach, and partnering with other neighborhood groups
- **Visibility:** Neighborhood Watch signs on the street and in windows
- **Partnerships:** working with local law enforcement

- How to start Neighborhood Watch:
 1. Involve local law enforcement
 2. Arrange a kickoff meeting
 3. Select leaders (pick volunteers according to the task they wish provide)
 4. Train residents in Neighborhood Watch basics and in observation and reporting
 5. Assess neighborhood needs
 6. Build participation
 7. Maintain energy
 8. Celebrate with your neighbors

Community Policing I

- Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and fear of crime.
- Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.
 1. Other Government Agencies
 2. Community Members/Groups
 3. Media
 4. Non-profit / Service Providers
 5. Private Businesses

Community Policing II

- Problem Solving is a process engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and rigorously evaluate effective responses.
- Community Policing is information-intensive and technology plays a central role in helping to provide ready access to quality information.
- Technology can support crime problem analysis functions by enabling agencies to gather information about events including detailed information about offenders, victims, crime locations, and quality-of-life concerns, and to further enhance analysis.

Community Policing III

1. **Scanning** – Identifying and prioritizing problems
2. **Analysis** – Researching what is known about the problem
3. **Response** – Developing solutions to bring about lasting reductions in the number and extent of problems
4. **Assessment** – Evaluating the success of the responses

Community Policing IV

- Using the crime triangle to focus on immediate conditions, helps citizens understand how the crime may occur if any of these three things are in place.



Vigilantism – Why it doesn't work

- "Vigilante justice" is rationalized by the idea that adequate legal mechanisms for criminal punishment are either nonexistent or insufficient. Vigilantes typically see government as *ineffective in enforcing* the law; and such individuals often presume to justify their actions as fulfillment of the wishes of "the community".
- Persons alleged to be "escaping the law" or "above the law" are sometimes the victims of vigilantism.
- Vigilante behavior involves various degrees of violence. Vigilantes may assault targets verbally or physically or may vandalize property or actually kill individuals.
- In a number of cases, vigilantism has involved mistaken identity.

Vigilantism – continued

- Vigilantes are not a part of our Neighborhood Watch Groups. Crime Prevention and Community Policing Officers attempt to spot any potential persons that fit that mindset **and** demeanor. We explain how Neighborhood Watch **is** conducted within our City and reiterate **HOW NOT** to conduct oneself **as a partner** with FMPD or **in** the name of Neighborhood Watch .
- Community Residents are the **“Eyes and Ears”** of the Sheriff/Police Department. We provide educational and crime prevention tools and tips for the community, to assist us in a non-confrontational manner. **Observe and report**, is all we ask of our community residents. Let the Law Enforcement professionals do their job to investigate any suspicious activity or apprehend any alleged criminal activity.

Implementing Police Community Partnerships

- Implementing community partnerships are relatively easy. Open communication with community residents, schools, local businesses, service organizations, sand non-profit groups are key.
- Sitting on community boards and joining human service clubs also provides a vast networking opportunity. Certain clubs like the Rotary Club can assist with information and can help out financially with certain crime prevention initiatives.
- Collaborations between neighborhood watch is a win-win situation for both the community and your local sheriff/police department.
- Join a neighborhood watch program, and watch great things happen.

Crime Prevention I

- Crime Prevention and Community Policing have worked together to solve many problems in our community. Police proactively seek out and solve various problems that directly affect the quality of life of our citizens. Our community policing philosophy is one that promotes organizational strategies, which support the use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.
- As a crime prevention professional. My responsibility is to embrace, encourage and to educate the overall community on crime prevention tips and topics. Residents and business owners alike.
- You must be innovative, and have a desire to service the public within your jurisdiction.
- You should be willing to be proactive and tenacious in finding new crime prevention information, that you can share with the public.

Crime Prevention II

- Several ways that you can maintain a productive crime prevention unit. Is to “**keep your hand on the pulse of the community.**” Grass roots efforts are always the best. Look for FREE opportunities and programs to implement for the community. such as the following listed below.
 1. Neighborhood Watch
 2. National Night Out
 3. Celebrating Safe Communities
 4. Adopt A Senior
 5. Take 25 (NCMEC)
 6. Global Youth Service Day
 7. Walk a Mile in her Shoes (ACT)
 8. Join local American Legion Posts and Red Cross to Support our Troops initiatives

Fort Myers Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program

- The City of Fort Myers, in Lee County, Florida covers approximately 56 square miles and houses approximately 68,000 full time residents. The city is divided into five districts. The Fort Myers Police Department, located at 2210 Widman Way, Fort Myers, FL 33901, assigns two sworn officers to each district to work as the Community Policing Coordinators. Since 1993, based on sound **crime prevention principals, Neighborhood Watch, and community policing philosophies**, Community Policing Officers and the work that they do is well established in the overall philosophy of the Fort Myers Police Department. We've seen a 50% reduction in crime over the past decade.
- We currently have 84 active neighborhood watch program in our city.

Crime Prevention Is Everyone's Responsibility

- Please take this opportunity to get involved. Crime travels regardless of the community you live in. Be proactive and partner with your local Law Enforcement Agency. Help McGruff take a “Bite out of Crime.”

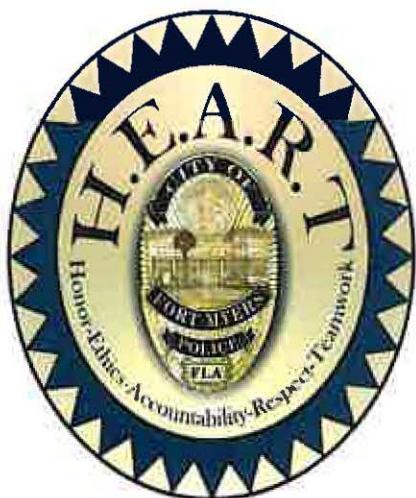


Crime Prevention Resources and Web links

- NSA- National Sheriffs Association (800) 424-7827 www.nsa.org
- FCPTI – Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute (800) 321-5366
www.fcpti.com; www.myfloridalegal.com
- NCPC – National Crime Prevention Council (202) 466-6272 www.ncpc.org
- USA on Neighborhood Watch-National Sheriffs Association (703)836-7827
www.USAAonwatch.org
- Community Oriented Policing Services- COPS (800) 421-6770
www.cops.usdoj.gov
- National Association of Town Watch (610)-649-7055
www.nationaltownwatch.org

Presenters Contact Information

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