



INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT NORTH DISTRICT

3120 East 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218
(317) 327-6100

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

The purpose of Neighborhood CrimeWatch is to make you aware of the steps you can take to make your home and your neighborhood safer, and how to improve your community's quality of life.

You and your neighbors can help each other protect your entire neighborhood, and to make local law enforcement agencies more effective in the fight against crime through your involvement and participation. A Neighborhood CrimeWatch project is the logical first step for any community organizing against crime; it requires minimal effort and gets people talking to and caring about one another.

How Does Crime Watch Work?

A neighborhood CrimeWatch is a Crime Prevention Program where neighbors **"LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!"**

It encourages participant neighbors to get to know each other and their routines, so that any out of place activities can be observed, recognized for what it is **and reported**; in order to be investigated by the Police Department or other city agencies. The program also teaches participants techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home, in their vehicles and in public places. We train participants on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and sounds, evaluate them and how to report them properly. It also teaches members how to make their homes more secure, and to secure, inventory and identify their property.

A CrimeWatch group is a cohesive body of concerned, involved, Neighbors addressing issues that concern their entire community.

- A Neighborhood Watch **IS NOT** a vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of the Police Department.
- It **IS NOT** a program designed for participants to undertake personal risks to deter crime.
- And it **IS NOT** a 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in or around your neighborhood.

What Are The Benefits Of A Neighborhood Watch Program?

Some of the most important benefits of being involved in your own Neighborhood Watch Program are:

1. Building Strong and Safer Communities.

2. Neighborhood surveillance by you and your neighbors.

Working together with the Police Department, it creates a greater sense of security, well being and reduction of fear of crime because you and your neighbors will "LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!" Most law enforcement agencies are limited in their available manpower, but with your help becoming the "eyes and ears" of the police in your community, crime prevention and control become more efficient and we all get better results.

3. Reduce the risk of being a crime victim.

You will be taught how to take preventative measures that substantially decrease the possibility of becoming a crime victim. It may also reduce the risk of vandalism, criminal activity, graffiti, personal assault, auto theft and other personal crimes against you or other family members.

4. Knowing your neighbors is the most important feature and benefit of this program.

You get to know participants regular patterns so you can see when something is unusual. You get to know how to contact them quickly. Being aware of the goings-on in your neighborhood is not invading anyone's privacy or snooping, it is guarding against trouble or any situation which could be dangerous to your neighborhood. It simply comes down to the motto, "WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!"

5. Access to Law Enforcement crime prevention information and activity reports.

Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs are designed to keep participants informed of crime trends and patterns so they will be better prepared to spot criminal activity in their neighborhood.

6. Neighborhood Crime Watch program helps you provide better reports

It trains you on how to observe and report suspicious and criminal activities occurring in your neighborhood and what information is needed by law enforcement officers need when you report a crime and why.

7. Address issues of mutual interest by getting together with your neighbors on a regular basis

These issues may be not only be related to Law Enforcement agencies, but also for Public Works, Code Enforcement, Health Department, Schools, City Authorities, Local Planning, etc. As an organized community you can be proactive about local tasks or issues which you probably alone may say "**Why doesn't someone do something about it...?**"

8. Crime Watch signs on your street send these messages:

- You have taken steps necessary to deter crime in your area.
- They are probably being watched.
- Your and your neighbors' homes are not easy targets.
- Your community knows what to do if suspicious or criminal activity is detected.
- Criminals report avoiding areas with Neighborhood Crime Watch signs posted.

Working together, as a community, you have the stepping stone needed to solve problems and improve the quality of life in your neighborhood.

Gerardo Becerra

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To remain active the Block Club must meet at least twice a year and keep an updated membership roster. Block Clubs are encouraged to meet as often as neighbors determine necessary.

As crime declines, it is just as important to continue to observe and report, be aware and alert and look to other activities to enhance the neighborhood.

Some suggestions for neighborhood activities and meetings are:

- Street and/or alley clean up
- Block Party
- Invite City/County Councilor
- Invite Community Prosecutor
- Invite Other City agencies

CRIMEWATCH SIGNS

In order to be eligible for the CrimeWatch Block Club signs, a Block Club must have met with the CrimeWatch Specialist and Crime Prevention Officer as well as having submitted their membership rosters.

There must be at least 50% participation from the neighbors, and the members must come to a consensus on the location of the signs.

CrimeWatch reserves the right to remove the signs at any time.

The Department of Public Works may require up to eight weeks to process and install the signs.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

9-1-1 to report:

Criminal Activity in Progress, Fire, Medical Emergencies, Shots Fired, Any Life Threatening Incident, Suspicious Activity.

NON-EMERGENCY 327-3811

CRIMEWATCH SPECIALISTS

North District	327-3781
East District	327-6265
Southeast District	327-6365
Southwest District	327-6465
Downtown District	327-3366
Northwest District	327-6572

OTHER CONTACTS

Traffic Enforcement	327-6525
Animal Care & Control	327- 1397

OTHER CITY CONTACTS

Mayor's Action Center	327-4622
Health Department	221-2150
Office of Code Enforcement	327-8400
Keep Indianapolis Beautiful	264-7555



Indianapolis Metropolitan
Police Department

**NEIGHBORHOOD
CRIMEWATCH**

**GOOD NEIGHBORS
MAKE GREAT
NEIGHBORHOODS**



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PREVENT CRIME

Efforts by police alone can not solve the crime problem. In order to prevent crime, police and residents must work together.

ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMEWATCH BLOCK CLUB

CrimeWatch is neighbors helping neighbors. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime.

Members of a CrimeWatch Block Club are not asked to be vigilantes or to assume the role of the police. Rather, they assist the police by observing and reporting suspicious activity.

It is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime.

DETERMINE INTEREST

There are a few preparations to make in order to organize a successful Block Club.

Identify target area. A Block Club usually consists of homes facing each other on a block.

Check with neighbors to determine interest; there must be at least **50%** participation. Identify your neighborhood's concerns.

Contact IMPD CrimeWatch and schedule the first Block Club meeting.

REQUIREMENTS

Informational Meeting with IMPD Crime Watch Specialist.

Organizational Meeting with IMPD Community Relations/Crime Watch.

Membership Roster submitted to the Crime Watch Specialist.

Crime Watch Sign Request submitted to Crime Watch Specialist.

FIRST MEETING

The first meeting is conducted by the IMPD CrimeWatch Specialist. The following information will be discussed:

Neighborhood Watch Concept
Organizing a Block Club
Basic Home Security – Safety Tips
Observing and Reporting Procedures

SECOND MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to define a strong communication system for the members, and have the opportunity to talk with a Community Relations Officer about police work and Crime Prevention Tips. The following information will be discussed:

Define District Boundaries
Discuss Area Crime Trends
Inventory and Marking Personal Property

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

There are three basic volunteer positions within each Block Club: Block Captain, Victim Assistance, and Hospitality.

BLOCK CAPTAIN

The duties of the Block Captain include: Organizing meetings; Notifying neighbors about meetings; Completing and distributing membership roster; Establishing a system for sharing information with neighbors.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The duties of the Victim Assistance include: Offering support to a Block Club member who has been victimized. Accompanying or arrange assistance for victims and/or witnesses go to court.

HOSPITALITY

The duties of the Hospitality Person include: Welcoming new neighbors and sharing CrimeWatch information. Maintain contact with neighbors who have special needs.

MAINTAINING YOUR BLOCK CLUB

A Block Club is considered **ACTIVE** once all of the following have been completed the following: (1) Meeting with CrimeWatch Specialist (2) Meeting with Crime Prevention Officer and (3) Membership Roster submitted to the CrimeWatch Specialist.