



Neighborhood Watch **Building Communities That Care**

What is Neighborhood Watch?

A neighborhood watch is a citizens' organization devoted to crime prevention within a neighborhood. Whether it is a Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch or, Apartment Watch, it is one of the most effective and least costly methods to reduce neighborhood crime. The City of Richmond established a Crime Prevention Program designed to assist residents interested in starting Neighborhood Watch groups.

How Can Neighborhood Watch Benefit Me?

Crime Prevention is the foundation of Neighborhood Watch. Benefits Include:

- Improved Communications and Partnerships with Law Enforcement
- Enhanced Community Problem Solving and Community Revitalization.
- Crime Reduction and Improved Safety
- An Opportunity to Receive Free Crime Prevention Training and Information
- Better Relationships Between Neighbors
- Improved Quality of Life

What Neighborhood Watch Isn't

Watch groups are not vigilantes and do not assume the role of the police. They only ask neighbors to be alert, observant, and caring while partnering with the police to resolve problems.

How Do I find Out If There A Neighborhood Watch Group in My Area?

You may contact Michelle Milam at City of Richmond Crime Prevention Unit at **(510) 620-6538**

How Do I Start a Neighborhood Watch Program?

- Contact the Crime Prevention Program, leave your name and telephone number.
- Recruit and organize as many neighbors as possible interested in starting a watch group. Ask for block captain volunteers who are responsible for relaying information to residents.
- Establish a regular means of communicating with Watch members—e.g., newsletter, telephone tree, e-mail, fax, etc.

What is the City of Richmond Crime Prevention Council?

Established in 1983, the City of Richmond Crime Prevention Council provides support, training, and instructional materials to neighbors, business owners, multi-housing units, and students. It is important to remember not to wait for a crisis to occur to form a Neighborhood Watch Group. A watch group can consist of an entire neighborhood, or one block. The Richmond Crime Prevention Program meets on the **third Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at 330 25th Street, Conference Room 1**. Please Call the City of Richmond Crime Prevention Unit **(510) 620-6538** if you have more questions.



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**ORGANIZING A NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH PROGRAM**

- Contact the Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit of the Richmond Police Department (510) 620-6538 to help with setting up a neighborhood meeting.

- Visit your neighbors and tell them you are interested in discouraging crimes in the neighborhood. Ask for their help towards this goal.

- If the area decides to form a Neighborhood Watch, a watch captain and co-captain is needed.

- Prepare a watch map listing names, addresses and telephone numbers. Contact the Crime Prevention Program to set up trainings.

**An Organized Community CAN Make A
Difference!**