

## GENERAL ORDER 45.2.1

### Neighborhood Watch

**GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None**

#### SUMMARY

Establishes program procedures and defines responsibilities for the Springfield Neighborhood Watch program.

#### DISCUSSION

Neighborhood Watch has been recognized as an effective crime prevention program. Police agencies assist groups of citizens in recognizing, appraising crime risk, and taking action to reduce the potential for crime in their neighborhoods. The program also increases positive police-community relations.

#### POLICY

##### I

The Community Outreach Coordinator shall ensure that liaison with the Springfield Neighborhood Watch is maintained. Requests for assistance and inquiries about the program shall be directed to the Community Outreach Coordinator.

##### II

Springfield Neighborhood Watch is a nonprofit organization, separate from the Police Department. Police Department staff shall remain in an advisory capacity, providing training or guidance. The structure of the Neighborhood Watch organization is:

Board of Directors: Consists of elected members who manage the finances and administer the program.

Coordinators: Are individuals who agree to organize and maintain a Neighborhood Watch area, usually 3 to 10 square blocks. Coordinators provide means of communication between the Police Department and general Neighborhood Watch members.

Block Captains: Are individuals who coordinate the program for their block usually 8-10 homes.

General Members: Are individuals who are concerned about the livability of their neighborhood. They are willing to learn about and begin practicing crime prevention measures.

### III

Neighborhood Watch is responsible for facilitating organizational meetings for each Neighborhood Watch area. Training and information will be provided to each coordinator. As block captains are recruited, staff shall ensure that information is provided to them in a timely manner. The Community Outreach Coordinator will attend monthly meetings & act as an advisor.

### IV

Criminal history background checks shall be conducted on each volunteer coordinator.

### V

The Neighborhood Watch Board are responsible for processing each Neighborhood Watch application. Original applications shall be maintained by Neighborhood Watch., and coordinators shall receive a copy.

### VI

To facilitate dissemination of information to Neighborhood Watch members of the board shall assist each coordinator with development of a "telephone tree list." Command staff, dispatch, or watch commanders, may authorize activation of a tree alert. The Community Outreach Coordinator shall provide dispatch with current coordinator lists and maps designating each area.

### VII

. General members receive a newsletter from Neighborhood Watch in coordination with the Police Department on a quarterly basis.

### VIII

Neighborhood Watch members will be provided training or information to include; using 9-1-1, recognizing and reporting suspicious activity, improving home security, using operation identification, community building skills and methods.

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Chief of Police