



Crime Prevention Information



Neighborhood Crime Watch

This program is the primary focus of the Crime Prevention office. It encourages residents to become familiar with each other as well as with basic procedures for reporting crime and suspicious activity. We encourage citizens to "See it, Hear it, Report it!" - but to refrain from getting physically involved in stopping a crime or engaging suspicious persons.

Neighborhood Crime Watch programs in the City of Charleston can be tailored to the needs of your community. The central requirements for being Certified as a Crime Watch in the City are that there are:

- 1) A primary contact person (This may be the Neighborhood President, HOA or apartment complex Manager, Crime Watch Coordinator or Chairperson, or in the case of a small area, a single Block Captain)
- 2) A updated communication network (Electronic, phone-tree, flyers door-to-door)
- 3) An in-person Crime Prevention presentation where a significant portion of residents have been instructed on Crime Prevention. This includes steps to take to deter crime around their home and street, how to recognize and report suspicious activity. (In some cases, extensive electronic communication can fulfill this requirement.)
- 4) Commitment on the part of residents to immediately notify police of all suspicious activity
- 5) Commitment to participate in National Night Out, a nationwide prevention event held the second Tuesday in August (or prior weekend).

Obtaining Crime Watch Signs

New signs will only be issued **after** a neighborhood has been certified as active by the Crime Prevention office, according to the factors listed above. Contact the Crime Prevention office directly for procedures.

For more information on this and other topics contact:

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