

OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM GUIDELINES

YOUR GROUP MUST COMPLETE EACH OF THE BELOW-LISTED STEPS TO QUALIFY FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AS A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP BY THE OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT.

- **SELECT OR ELECT A WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN**

This person must be willing to oversee the organization of your group and be willing to devote a minimal amount of time and effort to the group's continued effective operation. Some of the duties of this person will be a) maintain a membership roster; b) schedule regular meetings; and c) be a contact for the Omaha Police Department.

- **DEFINE BOUNDARIES**

The group should decide the exact area they wish to include in their watch group. Only blocks with 60% participation will be considered for membership. It has been found that participation by less than 60% of the residents on a block makes an ineffective watch group. A block is defined as the houses on both sides of a given street from intersection to intersection. This may be waived for blocks with irregular configurations.

- **MAINTAIN A ROSTER**

Your group must maintain a roster of all active members. This should include names, addresses and phone numbers. Work numbers should be listed where possible.

- **TELEPHONE TREE**

An effective method for sharing information between neighbors is a telephone tree. Each neighbor is responsible for calling one or two other block members when problems arise. You should keep their block-information records in a safe, accessible place.

- **REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

The basic premise of the Neighborhood Watch Program is to reunite the neighborhoods in close, friendly groups. The most effective way to accomplish this is to have regular get-togethers. The Omaha Police Department would like to see all of the groups meet as often as possible but, in any event, not less than once a year. These meetings do not have to center on "crime talk" but can be used to exchange ideas about all types of neighborhood problems, including crime. **The Community Resource Center must be notified that your group is meeting at least once a year in order to stay active in our files. Notification can be mailed to the Omaha Police Department, Community Resource Center, 505 South 15th St., Omaha, NE 68102, or call 444-5772.**

- **CONTACT COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**

When your group has completed each of the above steps, please have the Watch Captain contact your Crime Prevention Specialist at 444-5772. After she has determined that your group has met all the requirements, she will attend your first meeting to certify your group and issue the Neighborhood Watch door stickers to the Watch Captain. The Crime Prevention Specialist and the Watch Captain will decide where the Neighborhood Watch signs will be located. The Crime Prevention Specialist will also arrange for sign installation. The Watch Captain's name will be included on a mailing list to receive the monthly Community Resource Center Newsletter.