

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, phone numbers and addresses. Work numbers and email addresses may be listed where possible.

- **TELEPHONE TREE/EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST**

An effective method for sharing information between neighbors is a telephone tree or email distribution list. These records should be kept in a safe, accessible place.

- **REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

The basic premise of the Neighborhood Watch Program is to unite 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 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. You must notify your Neighborhood Watch liaison that your group is meeting at least once a year to stay active and to keep your signs posted.

- **NWG CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR AREA:**

When your group has completed each of the above steps, please have the Watch Captain contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 402-444-5772. After it has been determined that your group has met all the requirements, a meeting will be established to certify your group and issue the Neighborhood Watch stickers and decide the location of your Neighborhood Watch signs.