

Memorandum

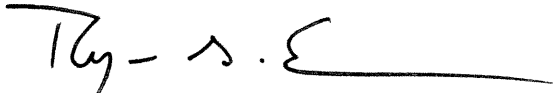


DATE: June 20, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee: Sheffie Kadane (Chair), Adam Medrano (Vice Chair), Dwaine Caraway, Jennifer S. Gates, Sandy Greyson, Scott Griggs

SUBJECT: **Crime Watch Organizations**

Attached is the briefing material on the "Crime Watch Organizations" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, June 23, 2014.



Ryan S. Evans
Interim First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M. S. Ernst, City Attorney
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Jill A. Jordan, P. E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Shawn Williams, Interim Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council



Crime Watch Organizations

Public Safety Committee

June 23, 2014



What is a Crime Watch?

- Partnership of neighbors working together to make their communities safer
 - Works closely with the police department and other local organizations to reduce crime
 - Promotes knowing neighbors to build a strong community
 - Aims to help people be familiar with their surroundings and identify what is out of place



History of Crime Watch Organizations

- 1960's – New York City neighborhoods form crime watch groups in response to violent crimes
- 1972 – National Sheriffs' Association begin nationwide efforts to grow crime watch
- 1970 – 80's – Dallas citizens form crime watch groups
- 1994 – The Dallas Crime Watch Executive Board is established

Objectives of Crime Watch Groups

- Prevent crime by creating and maintaining a caring community
- Reduce opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness
- Assist the police with prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity
- Provide effective communication between the police department and community through crime watch meetings, social media, and community events

Identifying Communities in need of Crime Watch Groups

- Through use of crime data and analysis, we prioritize areas in need of crime watches that do not currently have one
- Officers contact citizens through presentations presented at community events such as “Chief on the Beat”

Crime Watch through Citizen Initiative

- Contact the Dallas Police Department to schedule a meeting with their local Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO)
- Obtain a copy of the Crime Watch Executive Board (CWEB) Resource Package
 - <http://www.dallaspolice.net/content/11/66/uploads/DallasCrimeWatchResourcePackage.pdf>
- Recruit and organize neighbors
- Hold regular meetings to discuss community concerns and develop an action plan

Neighborhood Police Officers and Crime Watch Groups

- NPO's are a specialized group of officers designed to be liaisons between the Police Department and the community
 - NPO's receive training on community organization and crime watch formation
- Each crime watch group is given a NPO contact
 - NPO's attend crime watch and homeowner's association meetings and provide regular feedback on community concerns

Division Crime Watch Groups

Current City Wide Total – 1,095

- Central - 64
- Southeast - 142
- Northwest - 199
- South Central - 111
- Northeast - 196
- Southwest - 154
- North Central - 229



Intelligence Sharing

- Members of the community see more than the police
- Citizens take ownership of information provided
- Every meeting with the police has an intelligence sharing aspect:
 - Community gives the police actionable information
 - The police department acts on the information
 - Community provides feedback on actions taken



Social Media

- Currently the police department utilizes Dallaspolice.net, individual division websites, Facebook, Twitter, Nixle, a newly created blog at DPDBeat.com, and email notifications/alerts to communicate crime alerts, crime prevention information, and general information
- The iWatch App allows citizens to provide anonymous tips to the Dallas Police Department through use of smart phone and tablets.



Social Media Contacts – 2014 YTD

- Facebook fans: 43,000
- Twitter followers: 36,500
- YouTube subscribers: 1,613
- Nixle contacts: 7,288
- Instagram: 320
- DPDBeat Views (Blog) 362,087



Summary

- The Dallas Police Department continues to have success in creating relationships with the community through crime watches
- Crime Watch groups create sustainable safe communities by identifying areas in need of resources
- This program empowers the community to work with the police department to lower crime rates
- Citizens belonging to a crime watch group take ownership of their neighborhood

Questions?

