

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA
TO
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 10

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
1984**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

Franklin E. White
Secretary of Public Safety

December 2, 1983

The Honorable Joseph H. Holleman, Jr.
Clerk
House of Delegates
State Capitol
Richmond, Virginia 23219


Dear Mr. Holleman:

Transmitted herewith is a copy of our Report From The Secretary of Public Safety to The General Assembly On The Status of Neighborhood Watch in Virginia. The report is provided pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 50 passed by the 1983 General Assembly.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,


Franklin E. White

FEW:dch

Enclosure



REPORT FROM THE
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY
TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE
STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 1, 1983

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REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY
TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE
STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 50

Requesting the Secretary of Public Safety to publicize and lend assistance to the formation and operation of Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch Groups.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 8, 1983
Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 1983

WHEREAS, crime in the Commonwealth is of great concern to all citizens;
and

WHEREAS, prevention and deterrence of crime are appropriate responsibilities of state government; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Watch programs combine the dual function of deterring crime and encouraging volunteerism among neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Watch programs are a cost-efficient method of protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth against crime; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Secretary of Public Safety is requested to use whatever resources he deems appropriate to publicize the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch programs, encourage neighborhoods throughout the Commonwealth to institute such programs, and lend any necessary technical assistance to localities which are willing to encourage such programs; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Secretary of Public Safety is requested to make inquiry into several cities and counties of the Commonwealth about programs or organized Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch groups; compile information and statistics relative to such existing programs or groups; develop a model Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch plan for use in the several cities and counties of the Commonwealth; publicize throughout the Commonwealth the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch programs as a deterrent to the commission of crime by such means as the Secretary deems to be appropriate; and prepare a report for submission to the 1984 Session of the General Assembly of his actions pursuant to this Resolution; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates is directed to prepare a copy of this resolution for transmittal to the Secretary of Public Safety.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch, as practiced in most areas of the nation, is based on a model developed in 1972 by the National Sheriffs' Association.¹ The national Neighborhood Watch program was developed in response to requests from sheriffs and police chiefs for a program which would stem the dramatically increasing rate of burglary in the United States. Major funding for the program was provided by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the United States Department of Justice.

The program concept evolved from the experiences of localities across the country which were encouraging citizens to help law enforcement fight crime by being more observant of suspicious or criminal activity and then reporting that activity to appropriate authorities. The aim of the Sheriffs' Association was to create a national program with federal support from which all U. S. communities could benefit.

The Sheriffs' Association recognized that changes in lifestyles were making neighborhoods less secure and more vulnerable to crime.² Factors such as households where both husband and wife are employed, transience resulting from job transfers, mobility and freedom provided by automobiles, the growing popularity of apartment living, and others, were causing many persons to become strangers to their neighbors. Many neighborhoods became deserted during the day and often, when people were at home, they were not aware or concerned enough to take action if suspicious activity or a crime took place.

In response to these conditions, the Sheriffs' Association Neighborhood Watch program was organized to do the following:³

- Increase citizen awareness of the problem of burglary through a continuing information program.
- Train citizens in effective means to secure property and then provide them assistance to do so.
- Develop a neighborhood action program where neighbors help watch each other's property and report suspicious persons and activities to law enforcement agencies.
- Encourage all citizens to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in reporting crime.

The Sheriffs' Association Neighborhood Watch program is now in its eleventh year. Since it was created, over 8,000 sheriffs, police departments and citizen organizations have been assisted in developing nearly 30,000 separate neighborhood crime prevention programs.⁴ It has been estimated that over 15 million persons in all fifty states as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are participating in the Watch program.

A 1982 Gallup survey found that one in six persons in the United States reported that his or her community had established some form of organized, volunteer anti-crime program.⁵ As many as eight out of ten who did not have a crime watch program established in their neighborhood would like to see such a program established. A 1982 survey conducted by the Chicago-based Burglary Prevention Committee found that 55 percent of 630 police chiefs surveyed ranked reliance on neighbors to report suspicious activity as the best way to catch a burglar in the act.⁶

Relying on the model established by the National Sheriffs' Association, many organizations are now assisting communities throughout the country to promote Watch programs. Assistance is available from the National Crime Prevention Coalition, the American Association of Retired Persons, the National Association of Town Watch, State Farm Insurance and others. Many states are providing technical assistance, training, and resource material to localities seeking to develop Neighborhood Watch.

Neighborhood Watch continues to be so successful because it is a cost-effective method to aid in reducing crime. A study conducted by the Cypress (California) Police Department found that the cost of using citizen volunteers to organize 221 block groups was \$10,289, compared to \$64,753 had police personnel been used.⁷ Similarly, in the Commonwealth, the Fairfax County Police Department estimates the annual worth of Neighborhood Watch citizen volunteers to be 30 million dollars.⁸

Most importantly, several studies have indicated that Neighborhood Watch does help reduce and control neighborhood crime. A 1977 evaluation of the communities participating in the National Sheriffs' Association Watch program found "the program is a positive success in substantially decreasing the number of attempted burglaries...(and) a positive success in lowering the number of successfully completed residential burglaries."⁹ The Neighborhood Watch Program in Detroit, Michigan, which has received considerable recognition, has realized significant decreases in residential crime. One Detroit area of 155 blocks which participated in Neighborhood Watch experienced a 61 percent decrease in residential burglary from 1977 through 1979.¹⁰

A similar control area recorded only a 12 percent residential burglary decrease. William Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has attributed part of the reason for the 4 percent decrease in the nation's crime rate from 1981 to 1982 to citizen participation in crime prevention programs like Neighborhood Watch.¹¹

Neighborhood Watch has grown tremendously since 1972, not only in terms of citizen support but also in terms of program ideas. The original concept of neighbors watching out for each other has been expanded to enlist the aid of regular visitors of neighborhoods, such as realtors, government employees, utility workers, postmen, and others, to create Realtor Watch, Employee Watch and Postal Watch programs. Neighboring businessmen have been organized to encourage businesses to watch out for each other through Business Watch programs. Continued growth will be limited only by the desire of people to participate.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA

The Neighborhood Watch program model developed by the National Sheriffs' Association is believed to have been first implemented in Virginia in 1973 when the city of Richmond included Neighborhood Watch as a crime prevention strategy in its High Incidence Target (HIT) program funded by the Division of Justice and Crime Prevention (now the Department of Criminal Justice Services).¹² The HIT program provided funding for eleven major Virginia communities during the years 1973 through 1977. The goal of the HIT program was to concentrate criminal justice resources against specific crimes, such as burglary and robbery, to reduce their incidence.

Although Richmond was the first Virginia community to adopt the formal Neighborhood Watch model, communities in the Commonwealth and elsewhere in the nation had been supporting similar citizen observing and reporting programs for some time. A system of citizen patrols was organized in Norfolk in 1966 to act as extra eyes and ears for the police.¹³ Unfortunately, at that time many viewed the citizen patrols as vigilantism rather than volunteer neighborhood crime prevention.

From the initial Neighborhood Watch program adopted in 1973 until 1977, the program underwent very little growth. In 1977, a survey was conducted by the Division of Justice and Crime Prevention to determine how many local law enforcement agencies were providing crime prevention services such as

Neighborhood Watch, Operation Identification, Security Surveys, Rape Prevention and Child Safety. The survey found only sixteen agencies were providing such services and, of those sixteen, only eleven were supporting Neighborhood Watch.

The survey results led the Secretary of Public Safety to conclude that local law enforcement should give greater support to the crime prevention concept. At the Secretary's request, a plan was developed in 1978 which called for the Division of Justice and Crime Prevention to take a lead role in encouraging more law enforcement agencies to develop the capability to provide crime prevention services--including Neighborhood Watch--to the public. Neighborhood Watch is an integral part of crime prevention and any effort which promotes crime prevention, in most circumstances, promotes Neighborhood Watch.

A major goal of the crime prevention plan was to create a statewide crime prevention association. The combined efforts of state government, local law enforcement, private business, industry, civic groups and service clubs, led to the founding of the Virginia Crime Prevention Association in 1978. The association has grown from 75 members in 1978 to nearly 250 in 1983.

While the initial phases of the crime prevention plan were being implemented, the 1978 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 51 which called for the establishment of a Sexual Assault Resource Center within the Public Safety Secretariat. Realizing the potential to promote other crime prevention concepts in addition to sexual assault prevention, the Secretary

of Public Safety expanded the scope of the resource center to include all crime prevention in general.

Relying on existing resources, the Secretary of Public Safety began promoting a crime prevention program with two major components:

(1) Technology Transfer:

- Prepare and distribute a crime prevention newsletter.
- Prepare and distribute a crime prevention resource directory.
- Establish a clearinghouse for crime prevention information.
- Prepare and distribute instructional guides on major crime prevention topics.
- Establish a speaker's bureau and other public awareness activities.

(2) Program Development and Assistance:

- Develop a volunteer technical assistance delivery system.
- Provide staff assistance to the Virginia Crime Prevention Association.
- Provide on-site technical assistance.
- Develop and implement crime prevention training sessions and workshops.

At the request of the Secretary of Public Safety, the Virginia Department of State Police became involved in the crime prevention effort in 1980. Their role was to help establish local crime prevention councils throughout the state. The purpose of the councils is to define local crime problems and develop crime prevention programs to combat them. The Department of State Police serves as a facilitator and provides technical and resource assistance.

The Secretary of Public Safety, relying on the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Department of State Police, has developed a state-wide initiative on crime prevention which is now providing a variety of services to all types of interest groups. Since 1978, some of the major accomplishments of this effort have been:

- Nearly 600 requests for crime prevention resource information have been answered.
- Nearly 1,100 crime prevention practitioners and community leaders representing 130 different organizations have received training through 21 crime prevention seminars and training sessions.
- Major crime prevention presentations have been given to an estimated 6,000 representatives of government, business and community groups.
- All local law enforcement agencies have been introduced to the crime prevention council program and eighteen crime prevention councils have been established.
- Direct on-site assistance has been provided to approximately 75 law enforcement agencies.

The following specific tasks have been accomplished by the Public Safety Secretariat which have served to promote Neighborhood Watch:

- An instructional "Law Enforcement Neighborhood Watch Guide" was developed and made available to law enforcement. Approximately 1,000 copies have been distributed in the state.
- A Neighborhood Watch brochure was developed and produced, and 25,000 copies were distributed in the state.
- A "Community Guide for Organizing A Neighborhood Watch Program" was produced. Approximately 500 copies have been distributed in the state.
- Arrangements were made to have the Department of Corrections produce and make available on order, at minimal cost, two sizes of Neighborhood Watch warning signs.

The interest of elected officials in crime prevention programs such as Neighborhood Watch has been made apparent by activity such as:

- President Ronald Reagan met with representatives of Fairfax County and recognized the achievements of that county's Neighborhood Watch program. This was also brought to the attention of the U. S. House of Representatives and entered into the Congressional Record by Representative Frank R. Wolf.
- The 1982 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 121 commending the activities of Neighborhood Watch groups in the state and encouraged more citizens to participate.
- The 1983 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 50, directing the Secretary of Public Safety to survey the status of Neighborhood Watch and take steps to promote it further.

These activities and events reflect much of what has been done to further crime prevention and Neighborhood Watch by state agencies working in conjunction with national, state and local organizations. However, the majority of the effort to develop and promote crime prevention programs at the local level comes from local law enforcement. The status of Neighborhood Watch promoted through local law enforcement agencies is reflected in the following Survey of the Status of Neighborhood Watch in Virginia.

SURVEY OF THE STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA

On July 6, 1983, a survey form seeking information on the status of Neighborhood Watch was sent by the Department of Criminal Justice Services to nearly 300 local law enforcement agencies in Virginia. Responses were received from 179 localities representing all 41 cities, all 95 counties, and 43 towns. These are the major findings of that survey.

1. Does your agency sponsor or promote Neighborhood Watch, Community Watch, or some similar community crime prevention activity?

Law Enforcement Support for Neighborhood Watch

	City	County	Town	Total
YES	36 (88%)	65 (66%)	19 (43%)	120 (67%)
NO	5 (12%)	30 (24%)	24 (57%)	59 (33%)
TOTAL	41 (100%)	95 (100%)	43 (100%)	179 (100%)

A list of the sponsoring cities, counties and towns is included as ATTACHMENT A.

A list of cities and counties not sponsoring Neighborhood Watch is included as ATTACHMENT B.

2. If you are currently supporting Neighborhood Watch in your jurisdiction, when did you first become involved with this activity?

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PROGRAMS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PROGRAMS</u>
1968	1	1977	1
1969	1	1978	5
.		1979	11
.		1980	21
.		1981	18
1973	1	1982	34
1974	3	1983	17
1975	1	Unknown	5
1976	1		

The programs begun in 1968 and 1969 predate the model established by the National Sheriffs' Association and represent local efforts to encourage citizen observation and reporting from which the model program was developed.

3. How many organized, separate Neighborhood Watch groups are there in your jurisdiction?
4. How many households are participating in Neighborhood Watch in your jurisdiction?

Neighborhood Watch Participation

	City	County	Town	Total
Groups	872	1,262	54	2,188
Households	76,709	111,335	10,283	198,327

The estimate of nearly 200,000 households participating is very conservative, because poor record-keeping prevented 33 localities from providing estimates of the number of households participating.

5. Which of these activities do your Neighborhood Watch groups participate in?

Neighborhood Watch Activities

	City	County	Town	Total
Neighborhood Foot/Car Patrol	16	31	5	52
C.B. Radio Patrol	15	14	4	33
Operation Identification	33	49	12	94
Security Surveys	29	37	11	77
Neighborhood Crime Analysis	17	16	5	38
Block Parent	13	9	6	28

Brief definitions of these activities:

Neighborhood Foot/Car Patrol - Actual patrol of neighborhoods by citizens on foot or by vehicle

C.B. Radio Patrol - Use of C.B. radios to speed communications to coordinate activities and make reports to authorities.

5. Continued

Operation Identification - A program of marking property or recording serial numbers of items such as televisions, cameras, firearms, etc., to enhance identification and return of stolen property.

Neighborhood Crime Analysis - Crime analysis data used to focus activities and keep residents abreast of existing neighborhood problems.

Block Parent - Through certain designated homes, safe haven is provided to children in need of assistance and unable to contact parents or guardians.

6. What symbol or logo do you use in your Neighborhood Watch program?

Neighborhood Watch Symbol or Logo

	City	County	Town	Total
Boris, the Burglar	11	20	6	37
Homes and Eye	9	1	1	11
Watch Eye	2	2		4
Northern Virginia Eye		2		2
McGruff	1	1		2
Warning Community Watch	3	7	2	12
Badge		2		2
Slash Over Crime	1			1
Slash Over Burglar		1		1
Binoculars		2	1	3
Not Available or None	9	27	9	45
Total	36	65	19	120

The variety of symbols is the result of using the symbol found on whatever material can be obtained for little or no cost; or in some cases it is the result of wanting to be distinctive.

7. Which of the following have you used to promote or enhance Neighborhood Watch in your jurisdiction?

Tools to Promote or Enhance Neighborhood Watch

	City	County	Town	Total
Brochures	32	52	17	101
Neighborhood Watch Signs	32	51	15	98
Window Warning Decals	29	47	11	87
Vehicle Identification Decals	11	18	3	32
Films/Slides	28	41	12	81
Speakers	34	48	15	97
Newsletter	15	18	5	38
Newspaper	30	41	15	86
Radio	22	24	7	53
Television	18	14	3	35

8. Which of the following organizational tools are used in your Neighborhood Watch program?

Organizational Tools

	City	County	Town	Total
Regularly Scheduled Meetings	26	36	13	75
Citizen Neighborhood Watch Coordinator	28	48	12	88
Citizen Block/Road Captains	28	37	11	76
Newsletter	16	12	6	34
Telephone Call-Up System	18	25	8	51
Neighborhood Parties	14	15	6	35
Regular Contact with Local Law Enforcement	29	45	14	88

9. Have you received any local public funding to promote Neighborhood Watch?

10. Have you received any private funds to promote Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch Funding

	City	County	Town	Total
Public Funds				
YES	11	18	3	32
NO	25	47	16	88
Private Funds				
YES	10	20	5	35
NO	26	45	14	85

All 120 of the departments supporting Neighborhood Watch are to some extent providing public funds to further the concept; however 32 departments responded that designated funds were being allocated for Neighborhood Watch. Estimates of the amounts were not available because most departments could not single out Neighborhood Watch funds from overall crime prevention or community service budgets.

Private funds in the amount of \$12,425 were received by 35 law enforcement agencies. These contributions typically come from business or civic groups.

11. Have you encountered any unusual problems in promoting your Neighborhood Watch program, such as vigilantism or strong resistance from segments of the community?

Only fifteen jurisdictions reported any major difficulties. The primary problem was being unable to receive enough citizen support. A few areas reported problems with members of Watch groups being a bit overzealous, by attempting to do things best left to law enforcement.

12. Have you received assistance from any of the following groups in developing and promoting Neighborhood Watch?

Sources of Assistance

	City	County	Town	Total
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services	26	33	11	70
Virginia Department of State Police	18	32	8	58
Virginia Crime Commission	9	8	4	21
Virginia Crime Prevention Association	24	23	11	58
Virginia Sheriffs' Association	8	24	5	37
Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police	7	5	4	16
Virginia Tech Extension Service	18	24	8	50
National Crime Prevention Coalition	22	21	10	53
National Center for Community Anti-Crime Programs	1	3	2	6
National Sheriffs' Association	18	37	5	60
International Association of Chiefs of Police	13	6	2	21
Other (American Association of Retired Persons, insurance industry, other law enforcement agencies, etc.)	21	19	9	49

13. Have any of the following spinoffs of Neighborhood Watch been organized in your jurisdiction?

Neighborhood Watch Spinoffs

	City	County	Town	Total
Business Watch	7	11	2	20
Employee Watch	4	2		6
Carrier Watch	1			1
Realtor Watch	3	1	1	5
Total	15	14	3	32

14. Have you conducted any formal study of the effect of Neighborhood Watch in terms of reduced crime, reduced fear, or increased citizen participation?

Studies were available from Falls Church, Hampton and Arlington County.

Falls Church

Residential Burglaries

	Watch Areas	Non-Watch Areas	Total
Fiscal '82	0	37	37
Fiscal '83	2	29	31

Hampton

Residential Burglary Rate

	85 Watch Areas	Control Non-Watch Areas
July-December 1981	1 per 44	1 per 46
January-June 1982	1 per 58	1 per 54
July-December 1982	1 per 64	1 per 52
January-June 1983	1 per 85	1 per 62

Arlington County

Residential Burglaries

	One Year Before Neighborhood Watch	One Year After Neighborhood Watch
Watch Area 1	9	0
Watch Area 2	14	0
Watch Area 3	5	1
Watch Area 4	1	1
Total (all 4 areas)	29	2

15. In terms of what you would like to accomplish with Neighborhood Watch in your community, whether or not such programs are currently existing in your community, what do you feel are areas where you need assistance?

Neighborhood Watch Needs

	City	County	Town	Total
Resource Information	11	34	17	62
Training	18	40	19	77
Personnel	13	45	20	78
Brochures, Handouts, etc.	17	49	24	90
State Funding	16	38	17	71
Federal Funding	9	30	13	52

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Law enforcement agencies in 120 cities, counties and towns in the Commonwealth are now supporting Neighborhood Watch. Conservative estimates indicate that nearly 200,000 households, or 10 percent of the residences in the Commonwealth, are participating in local Neighborhood Watch programs. Several localities have conducted evaluations which have found that neighborhoods participating in Neighborhood Watch have experienced crime reductions or have less crime than similar neighborhoods not participating in Neighborhood Watch.

Neighborhood Watch is offering many citizens the opportunity to become directly involved with law enforcement in neighborhood crime prevention. Through acceptance and participation in Neighborhood Watch, citizens are demonstrating that crime is a problem to be dealt with not only by law enforcement, but that it is a community problem in which all residents can play a role in reducing criminal opportunity.

Citizen involvement in neighborhood crime prevention is providing law enforcement with a significant resource. While this resource is difficult to measure, it has had numerous beneficial effects. The exchanges resulting from increased citizen-law enforcement cooperation are fostering more positive relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Most importantly, the Watch programs are achieving their primary objectives--the reduction of crime and a lessening of people's fear of crime.

Watch programs can be found in all urban, suburban and rural areas of the state. Law enforcement agencies as large as 700 sworn officers and as small as one sworn officer are promoting Neighborhood Watch. Law enforcement and community crime prevention groups are receiving assistance from service clubs, professional organizations, churches, schools, businesses and national organizations. These services are provided mainly at no cost.

Additional crime prevention programs are being started or expanded relying on the organizational structure created by Neighborhood Watch. Crime prevention programs dealing with home security, child safety, rape prevention and substance abuse are being made available to residents of the Commonwealth. Crime prevention is the primary concern of Neighborhood Watch groups but other topics, such as first aid, fire safety and traffic safety, are also being addressed. In many areas of the state, Neighborhood Watch has fostered the development of community organization. This has led to local community pride, transitioning a geographic collection of homes and people into viable neighborhoods.

The survey of law enforcement agencies found considerable support for Neighborhood Watch and this support is expected to continue growing. Several problems which are tending to limit localities in achieving the greatest potential of Neighborhood Watch were identified through the survey. These problems are:

- ° No common symbol or identifier for Neighborhood Watch (or crime prevention).

At least ten different symbols or identifiers are being utilized across the state in Neighborhood Watch promotions. This creates confusion and makes it difficult for people to quickly identify a message pertaining to Neighborhood Watch.

- Lack of uniformity in public awareness material.

Many jurisdictions with funding for awareness material are developing and producing material unique to their particular jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions without funds for awareness material must accept the format and quality of material obtained at little or no cost. This is an inefficient use of resources and tends to add to the problem of people being unable to quickly identify Neighborhood Watch public awareness material.

- Inadequate records-keeping by law enforcement.

Many law enforcement agencies were unable to answer questions in the Neighborhood Watch survey because inadequate records of activities are being kept. Records are vital to determine the level of community support, but are most important when conducting evaluations of the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch programs.

- Limited crime prevention training opportunities for law enforcement personnel.

Crime prevention training must compete with other law enforcement training needs, many of which are legally mandated. Crime prevention is a relatively new topic and the pool of qualified instructors is somewhat limited for in-state instruction. The alternative of out-of-state instruction is costly and again must compete with other training priorities.

The role of the Public Safety Secretariat in promoting Neighborhood Watch has been to serve as a catalyst to encourage localities throughout the state to adopt Neighborhood Watch. Responsibility for establishing Neighborhood Watch programs has rested with the localities, with the Public Safety Secretariat providing technical assistance, training and resource information. The Public Safety Secretariat will continue the character of the existing relationship with the localities relying on existing resources. The following activities are planned by the Public Safety Secretariat to encourage greater participation in Neighborhood Watch and to assist participating localities in achieving greater potential from Neighborhood Watch efforts.

- Recommend that the Governor or the General Assembly, by resolution, designate McGRUFF, the crime dog, as the official symbol for crime prevention in Virginia, and designate the phrase "TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME" as the official slogan of crime prevention in Virginia.

- Distribute the Model Neighborhood Watch Program Guide, developed in accordance with House Joint Resolution No. 50, to all law enforcement agencies and other interest groups in the Commonwealth.
- Provide additional training seminars to law enforcement and other interested groups on Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention programs.
- Distribute to the news media statewide a press release on the findings of the Survey of the Status of Neighborhood Watch in Virginia, and distribute the survey report to law enforcement and other interested groups.
- Provide information concerning the status and nature of Neighborhood Watch to newspapers, magazines, journals and other forms of mass communication produced for residents of the Commonwealth.
- Assist law enforcement training academies in developing crime prevention training guidelines for mandated basic law enforcement instruction.
- Continue to expand and develop local crime prevention councils throughout the Commonwealth.

- Continue to serve as a Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention resource center to law enforcement and other interested groups throughout the Commonwealth.

SOURCES

- 1 "The National Neighborhood Watch Program," The National Sheriff, December 1982-January 1983, p. 24.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 The National Sheriffs' Association, National Neighborhood Watch Program Manual, 1976, p. 2.
- 4 The National Sheriff, p. 24.
- 5 Gallup Survey, 1982.
- 6 Chicago Burglary Prevention Committee, 1982.
- 7 Ronald E. Lowenberg and Robert A. Bondurroga, "Neighborhood Watch: A Community Resource," The Police Chief, February 1983, p. 34.
- 8 Congressional Record, April 12, 1983 (remarks of Representative Frank R. Wolf).
- 9 The National Sheriff, p. 25.
- 10 American Association of Retired Persons, "Neighborhood Watch, Detroit Model." Unpublished report, February 19, 1981.
- 11 Crime Prevention Coalition, Catalyst, June 1983.
- 12 Arthur Young and Company, "High Incidence Target Project Evaluation Report." Unpublished report, May 1975.
- 13 Virginian-Pilot, September 10, 1966.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A

LOCALITIES SPONSORING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Cities

Alexandria	Fredericksburg	Poquoson
Bedford	Galax	Portsmouth
Bristol	Hampton	Richmond
Charlottesville	Hopewell	Roanoke
Chesapeake	Lexington	Salem
Colonial Heights	Lynchburg	South Boston
Covington	Manassas	Staunton
Danville	Manassas Park	Suffolk
Emporia	Martinsville	Virginia Beach
Fairfax	Newport News	Waynesboro
Falls Church	Norfolk	Winchester
Franklin	Petersburg	Williamsburg

Counties

Albemarle	Goochland	Powhatan
Alleghany	Grayson	Prince George
Amelia	Greene	Prince William
Appomattox	Greensville	Pulaski
Arlington	Halifax	Richmond
Augusta	Hanover	Roanoke
Bedford	Henrico	Rockbridge
Botetourt	Henry	Rockingham
Buckingham	Isle of Wight	Russell
Campbell	James City	Scott
Caroline	King George	Shenandoah
Carroll	King William	Smyth
Charles City	Loudoun	Spotsylvania
Charlotte	Louisa	Stafford
Chesterfield	Mathews	Surry
Essex	Mechlenburg	Tazewell
Fairfax	Middlesex	Warren
Fauquier	Montgomery	Washington
Fluvanna	New Kent	Westmoreland
Franklin	Orange	Wythe
Frederick	Patrick	York
Gloucester	Pittsylvania	

ATTACHMENT A - continued

LOCALITIES SPONSORING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Towns

Ashland
Big Stone Gap
Bluefield
Chincoteague
Gretna
Halifax
Herndon
Hurt
Leesburg
Marion

Narrows
Pearisburg
Pulaski
Rocky Mount
Urbanna
Vienna
Vinton
Warrenton
Warsaw

ATTACHMENT B

LOCALITIES NOT SPONSORING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Cities

Buena Vista
Clifton Forge
Harrisonburg
Norton
Radford

Counties

Accomack	King and Queen
Amherst	Lancaster
Bath	Lee
Bland	Lunenburg
Brunswick	Madison
Buchanan	Nelson
Clarke	Northampton
Craig	Northumberland
Culpeper	Nottoway
Cumberland	Page
Dickenson	Prince Edward
Dinwiddie	Rappahannock
Floyd	Southampton
Giles	Sussex
Highland	Wise

MODEL

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM GUIDE

NOVEMBER 10, 1983

VIRGINIA CRIME PREVENTION CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
805 E. BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219
TELEPHONE (804) 786-4000

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been designed to assist citizens and law enforcement agencies in establishing Neighborhood Watch programs. The various points discussed are offered as suggestions on how a Neighborhood Watch program might be established. The extent of neighborhood problems and the commitment by neighborhood residents will determine which of the suggestions are adopted.

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program which enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime in their communities. In past years, before we had super highways, two and three-car families, the popularization of apartment living, transience created by job transfers, etc., Neighborhood Watch was normally not needed because neighbors knew each other and naturally looked out for each other. Today in many communities neighbors are strangers to each other and consequently cannot watch out for one another.

Neighborhood Watch is thus an organized program to encourage neighbors to look out for each other. It involves the following primary activities:

- Neighbors getting to know each other and working in a program of mutual assistance.
- Citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods.
- Implementation of crime prevention programs, such as Home Security, Operation Identification, and others.

The following is a guide describing how to go about setting up a Neighborhood Watch program relying on program components generally recognized by most crime prevention professionals as basic elements of a Neighborhood Watch.

PDH:pb

I. Establish A Planning Committee

A. Preliminary Meeting

1. Arrange a small informal meeting of several neighbors who are concerned about crime and are willing to assist in setting up the Watch program.
2. Discuss the need for a Watch program, the expected results, problem areas, and obtain definite commitments of the planning committee to continue service.

B. Follow-Up Activity

1. Contact the local law enforcement agency to advise them of your plans and invite their participation.
2. If there is a civic association representing the neighborhood, ask the appropriate committee to study the development of a Neighborhood Watch program.

II. Organize a Neighborhood Watch Meeting

- ### A. Contact the local law enforcement agency to brief them on program's progress and invite them to participate in the first formal neighborhood meeting.
1. Request a presentation on crime and what citizens can do to prevent it. Comments should serve to motivate persons in attendance and should include the benefits of a Neighborhood Watch program.
 2. Obtain a commitment from law enforcement to work with the Watch program by agreeing to do the following:
 - a. Provide regular reports on crime in the neighborhood
 - b. Provide information on crime trends which may affect the neighborhood
 - c. When possible, provide the Watch group with handout and other resource material

II. Organize a Neighborhood Watch Meeting - continued

- d. When possible, provide general crime awareness presentation to the Watch group
- e. Provide training to residents so they can assess their own security strengths and weaknesses and then take appropriate action

B. Choose a Meeting Site

- 1. Neighborhood school
- 2. Church
- 3. Community center
- 4. Private residence

C. Send out notices of date, time, location and purpose of meeting.

D. Prepare a Meeting Agenda

- 1. Purpose and brief background
- 2. Have all in attendance introduce themselves
- 3. Introduce law enforcement officer (if available)
- 4. Discuss neighborhood crime problems
- 5. Explain benefits of the Neighborhood Watch program and how it is to be organized
- 6. Select a Neighborhood Watch coordinator
- 7. Select block or road captains (Can represent one block, several blocks, a road, etc., depending on geographical size and number of residents)

III. Organization

A. Neighborhood Watch Committee

1. The Neighborhood Watch coordinator and the block/road captains are the most crucial positions. These persons provide leadership and coordination and serve on the Neighborhood Watch committee, which has the following responsibilities:
 - a. To maintain and expand the program to include as many residents as possible
 - b. To set forth objectives and strategies in cooperation with law enforcement that will make the neighborhood safer
 - c. To plan and implement programs that will be beneficial and appropriate for the neighborhood
 - d. To assess the success of the program and provide feedback to residents and law enforcement

B. Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

1. Serves as liaison between the law enforcement agency and the neighborhood
2. Seeks resources and materials and makes available to block captains
3. Passes information obtained from law enforcement to block captains
4. Passes information from block captains to law enforcement; i.e., suspicious vehicles in neighborhood, problems and concerns
5. Maintains a master list of Watch members
6. Arranges neighborhood crime prevention programs in concert with law enforcement
7. Obtains signs proclaiming that the neighborhood has a Watch program

III. Organization - continued

8. Provides reports to the civic association if such exists
9. Supervises the activities of the block captains
10. Establishes subcommittees to develop specific crime prevention projects; i.e., Operation Identification, Block Mothers, etc.

C. Block/Road Captains

1. Serve as liaison between residents and coordinator
2. Recruit new Watch members, striving for 100% participation in the block or blocks for which responsible
3. Assist coordinator plan meetings and activities
4. Maintain list of participating members, including name, address, work and home phone number, vehicle type and license number
5. Distribute block map to each member containing information listed in No. 4 above
6. Notify residents of meetings and training sessions
7. Designate work assignments as needed:
 - a. Secretarial
 - b. Fund raising, i.e., sign purchase, Operation ID engravers, written material, etc.
 - c. Walking patrol
 - d. Vacation house checks
 - e. Others

III. Organization - continued

8. Contact at least quarterly each resident within block(s) and ask:
 - a. Were you or a member of your family a victim of a crime in this neighborhood during the period? YES _____ NO _____
 - b. If YES, what type of crime?
 - c. Types of article stolen
 - d. Total value
 - e. Reported to law enforcement YES _____ NO _____
 - f. Did you call in a suspicious person or activity during the period? YES _____ NO _____

D. Activities and Tools

1. Patrols
 - a. Can be accomplished by foot, bicycle or motor vehicle
 - b. Citizen band radios or walkie-talkies can be used to speed transmission of suspicious activity reports
 - c. Should only observe and report and take no direct action
2. Telephone tree
 - a. Each individual in the Watch group is assigned to contact a specific number of other neighbors to pass on information
 - b. Can pass on general information or vital information during suspicious circumstances or emergencies
 - c. Each resident must provide his block/road captain with sufficient information about his household to make the system effective (see attached family data sheet)

III. Organization - continued

3. Neighborhood Watch warning sign
 - a. Used to warn potential thieves, advise law enforcement, and assure residents
 - b. Large signs can be placed at entrances to neighborhood and throughout the neighborhood
 - c. Small signs can be placed on mailboxes or on homes
4. Neighborhood Watch window warning decal
 - a. Placed on doors and windows to warn potential thieves
 - b. Can also be used to identify motor vehicles belonging to particular neighborhoods
5. Neighborhood map (see attached sample guide)
 - a. Used as a guide to report information to law enforcement, fire, rescue or other emergency personnel
 - b. Informs residents who their neighbors are
6. Suspicious activity report (see attached sample)
 - a. Provides residents with a uniform guide to record needed information
 - b. Can be directly passed on to law enforcement personnel for use in investigations

IV. Programs

The following list of programs can be undertaken by a Neighborhood Watch group.

A. Crime-Related Programs

1. Security Inspections (of homes and property)
2. Operation Identification

IV. Programs - continued

3. Light the Neighborhood (porch or street lights)
4. Rape Prevention/Self Defense
5. Fraud Prevention
6. House Numbering
7. Child Safety and Security
8. Block Parents (Safe homes for children in need of assistance)
9. Drug Awareness

B. Other Interest Areas

1. First Aid/CPR
2. Baby Sitting Safety
3. Fire Safety
4. Traffic Safety
5. Phone Checks of Elderly or Handicapped

V. External Resources

- A. The law enforcement agency is the primary resource for a Neighborhood Watch group. In many instances the level of involvement of the law enforcement agency will dictate program success.
- B. Many state and national groups have become interested in crime prevention.
 1. State Groups
 - a. Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
 - b. Virginia Department of State Police
 - c. Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
 - d. Virginia Tech Extension Service
 - e. Virginia Farm Bureau
 - f. Virginia Office on Aging
 2. National Groups
 - a. National Crime Prevention Coalition
 - b. American Association of Retired Persons
 - c. All U. S. military services

V. External Resources - continued

- d. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- e. U. S. Postal Service
- f. Insurance Information Institute

3. For more resources, contact your local law enforcement agency or the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

C. Other resources that might assist in preventing neighborhood crime include:

- 1. Mail carriers
- 2. Newspaper carriers
- 3. Fire prevention inspectors
- 4. Realtors
- 5. Utility personnel
- 6. Local government employees
- 7. Insurance salesmen

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
FAMILY DATA SHEET

(To be maintained by NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Coordinator)

Home Address: _____ Home Telephone _____

Family Name: _____

Man of Household: _____ Woman of Household _____

Children: _____ age _____ age _____

_____ age _____ age _____

_____ age _____ age _____

Other residents: _____

Work Telephone Numbers:

Man of Household: _____ Woman of Household _____

Other: _____

Individual to contact in an EMERGENCY:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

Family Vehicles:

	Year/Make	Style	Color	License Number
No. 1	_____	_____	_____	_____
No. 2	_____	_____	_____	_____
No. 3	_____	_____	_____	_____

Any special family health/medical problems: _____

Any special emergency medical care training/skills: _____

Any other pertinent/important information: _____

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION

SEX _____ RACE _____ AGE _____

HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____ HAIR _____

TEETH (MISSING): _____ HAT: _____

COLOR OF EYES: _____ SHIRT: _____

GLASSES: _____ COAT: _____

MOUSTACHE, BEARD OR
SIDEBURNS: _____ TIE: _____

COMPLEXION: _____ PANTS AND SHOES: _____

TATTOOS, AMPUTATIONS,
SCARS AND MARKS: _____ WEAPON: _____SPEECH IMPEDIMENTS OR
ACCENTS: _____ (HANDGUN, RIFLE, KNIFE,
ETC.)DISTINGUISHABLE GAIT
OR LIMP: _____ RINGS, BRACELETS,
NECKLACES OR EARRINGS: _____

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

WHAT MAKE: _____

WHAT YEAR: _____

BODY STYLE (2-DOOR, CONVERTIBLE, ETC.): _____

WHAT COLOR: _____

IDENTIFYING DENTS, SCRATCHES: _____

LICENSE NUMBER/STATE OF ISSUE OR IDENTIFYING COLORS: _____

WRONG INFORMATION IS WORSE THAN NO INFORMATION AT ALL.
ANSWER ONLY THOSE QUESTIONS THAT YOU ARE SURE OF.

1. HOW MANY SUBJECTS WERE THERE?
2. WHAT DID THEY DO?
3. WHAT DID THEY SAY?
4. WHAT DID THEY TAKE?
5. WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?
6. WERE THERE ANY OTHER WITNESSES? NAMES AND ADDRESSES.

7. IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL IS IMPORTANT?

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
NEIGHBORHOOD DATA SHEET

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

STREET

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

HOME

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

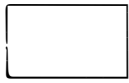
NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

NAME
ADDRESS
HOME PHONE
BUS. PHONE

STREET

_____ FIRE _____ POLICE/SHERIFF _____ RESCUE



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FOLD ALONG PERFORATIONS FOR EASY REMOVAL.