



July 10, 2010

Los Olivos – Riker Neighborhood Watch (LORNW)

Guide to Citizen Patrol

Overview - LORNA/LORNW

Welcome to Los Olivos - Riker Neighborhood Watch (LORNW). Established in March 2010, the Watch is an effort to network neighbors for the purpose of keeping our part of the community safe. LORNW is a key program of the Los Olivos - Riker Neighborhood Association (LORNA).

Also established in March of 2010, LORNA helps to fund the Watch and organize “community building” and “community betterment” activities within our neighborhoods.

Both LORNA and LORNW are detailed on our website, located at www.lorneighborhood.com. The website has a wealth of information about our group. You are encouraged to visit the website and share it with friends and neighbors.

LORNA/LORNW is a completely voluntary group of neighbors with the mission of keeping the Los Olivos-Riker community safe, while also making it stronger. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact LORNA leadership via the website.



Purpose – Guide to Citizen Patrol

The purpose of this Guide to Citizen Patrol is to provide personal safety guidance in addition to patrolling and reporting guidance for LORNW members who patrol (or walk) in their neighborhoods. The primary objective of Citizen Patrol is to observe, assess and report suspicious, inappropriate or criminal activity in LORNW neighborhoods. Citizen Patrol does not give its members special authority to confront or take action against any person. Confrontation or interaction with individuals during suspicious or criminal activity is beyond the scope of Citizen Patrol duties, and is specifically discouraged. This Guide will aid Citizen Patrols to assess situations and report their observations to authorities should it become necessary.

Safety Guidelines

- **Your personal safety must always be your first consideration while on Citizen Patrol, just as it is when you are simply walking through your neighborhood.**
- **NEVER confront anyone whom you suspect is engaging in suspicious, inappropriate or criminal activity.**
- **In suspicious situations, be aware of Scene Safety. That means you should observe your surroundings as there may be accomplices who are involved in the suspicious activity, but who are observing from a position away from the scene. Make a note of license plates and descriptions of people and cars that you suspect may be involved in the suspicious activity.**
- **Citizen Patrols shall not enter private property “in pursuit of” suspicious persons, or “to investigate” suspicious activity.**
- **Your role in Citizen Patrol is to observe and report suspicious, inappropriate or criminal activities that you observe while patrolling.**



Patrolling Guidelines

- As was previously mentioned, your personal safety must always be your first consideration during Citizen Patrol.
- LORNW recommends that you wear a reflective safety vest containing the LORNW logo while you are patrolling. Exception: Some people may feel uncomfortable or “too conspicuous” wearing a safety vest. Wearing a safety vest (or not) is a personal decision. If you are uncomfortable wearing a safety vest, don’t wear one, but continue to follow the other guidelines for patrolling, including having a heightened awareness of your personal safety.
- LORNW recommends patrolling with a partner, or in a group, though this may not always be feasible due to each citizen’s varying personal schedule. Again, heightened safety awareness must always be observed when patrolling alone.
- Always carry a pen and small notebook with you. Keep emergency and non-emergency phone numbers handy in your notebook. If possible, carry a cell phone for quick reporting as occurrences arise. If you can carry a small camera with you, photographs are an excellent way to document activities, suspicious vehicles, license plate numbers, etc. that may be helpful at a later date. Use discretion when photographing people. If they see you they may confront you and ask why you’re photographing them.
- Make friends with neighbors in your area as they can be helpful resources when they see you patrolling. Invite them to join Neighborhood Watch and take part in keeping the neighborhood safe and free of criminal activity.
- Vary your patrolling route and routine so that your patrolling activity doesn’t become predictable.



Patrolling Guidelines (continued)

- **Be familiar with the street names in your neighborhood so you can quickly report your location in an emergency situation.**
- **Make an effort to be aware of your neighbor's personal vehicles. If you get used to seeing what is "normal" in the neighborhood, it's easier to recognize something that is "out of place".**
- **High times for residential burglaries are in the morning after people leave for work, and after lunch when people return to work. These are particularly important times for patrols to be watchful of suspicious activity.**
- **Take note of unfamiliar people or vehicles that linger in the neighborhood. They may be "casing" the neighborhood to observe times when people are away from home.**
- **Take note of school age kids (often with backpacks) who walk through the neighborhood during normal school hours. This could qualify as a suspicious activity.**
- **Take note of suspicious people or suspicious vehicles that may not reach the level of reporting, but that you may want to watch out for in the future if they return.**



Reporting Guidelines

Emergency or Crime-In-Progress Reporting

- Try to stay calm.
- Move to a location out of harm's way.
- Call 911.
- If you reach a recording, listen to what it says. If the recording says your call cannot be completed, hang up and call again. If the recording says all call-takers are busy, stay on the line until the next call taker can answer your call.
- When calling from a cell phone, the emergency call taker may ask you for your location so they can transfer you to the appropriate 911 emergency facility in your area.
- Report who you are (Los Olivos - Riker Neighborhood Watch Citizen Patrol) to the call taker.
Note: You may choose to give your name, but you are not required to give your name if you are uncomfortable doing so.
- Report your location.
- Briefly report the suspicious activity.
- Answer questions asked by the 911 operator. Some of his/her questions may seem unnecessary, but operators are required to follow a questioning protocol when answering emergency calls.
- Be prepared to report important details of what you have observed.
- Write notes relating to the incident in your notebook, particularly the date, time and location, for future reference if you are contacted later by authorities.



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Non-Emergency Reporting

- **Non-emergencies include, but are not limited to:**
suspicious broken windows in homes; graffiti or vandalism; underage drinking; persons loitering; persons drunk in public, but who are not an immediate danger
- **When appropriate, call the non-emergency crime reporting line, the anonymous crime tip line, graffiti tip line or the anonymous drug tip line.** Phone numbers are shown at the end of this document.
- **Record notes (time, date and location) of suspicious occurrences in your personal notebook for future reference.**
- **Call Jenny Bryant – SPD Assistant, Community Services Unit (see contact info below) for general questions regarding Police Services. Do not call her for non-emergency reporting.**

Important Phone Numbers

911	Emergency: Crime-in-Progress
758-7321	Non-emergency crime reporting
775-4201	Cmdr. Terry Heffington (Salinas South Command) Email Terry at terryh@ci.salinas.ca.us
758-7250	Watch Commander
758-7044	Jenny Bryant – SPD Assistant, Community Services Unit
800 782-7463	Anonymous Crime Tip Line (24 hours)
800 473-7847	Anonymous Drug Tip Line
800-473-7926	Report Graffiti



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Helpful Websites

Salinas Municipal Codes and Ordinances:

<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16597&stateId=5&stateName=California>

Salinas Police Dept.:

<http://www.salinaspd.com/>

Salinas historical crime statistics:

<http://www.salinaspd.com/statistics.html>

Sex Offender Registry – Enter state and city, then hit search:

<http://www.familywatchdog.us/ShowMap.asp?frm=0>

U. S. Dept. of Justice - Crime category definitions:

http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/about/offense_definitions.html

City of Salinas “Who do I call?” link for various city inquiries:

<http://www.cityofsalinas.com/who2call.cfm>

LORNA Website:

<http://lorneighborhood.com/>



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Approved, LORNW Organizers

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____