



Community Safety Information Notice – Wood Ridge Homeowners Association

Dear Wood Ridge Homeowners,

The Board of Directors wishes to reaffirm its commitment to maintaining a safe, respectful, and well-informed community. Recent inquiries have prompted the Board to review whether the Association should disseminate information regarding individuals with criminal histories who may reside within or near Wood Ridge. After careful consideration, the Board provides the following clarification and the reasoning behind this position.

The Wood Ridge Homeowners Association does not publish, circulate, or comment on the criminal history of any individual, regardless of their proximity to the community. This policy is grounded in several important considerations:

1. Legal and Privacy Obligations The disclosure of personal criminal history—particularly when not issued by law enforcement—raises significant legal and privacy concerns. Criminal records can be incomplete, outdated, or inaccurate, and distributing such information may expose the Association to claims of defamation, harassment, or invasion of privacy. The Board must ensure that all communications comply with federal, state, and local laws, including those governing fair housing and nondiscrimination.

2. Scope of Authority The HOA is not a law-enforcement agency and does not possess investigative authority. Publishing information about specific individuals could be interpreted as assuming responsibilities that fall outside the Association’s legal mandate. The Board’s role is to manage community governance, maintain common areas, and uphold Association standards—not to assess or publicize the criminal background of private citizens.

3. Accuracy and Reliability Law-enforcement agencies maintain verified, up-to-date information regarding public safety. The HOA cannot guarantee the accuracy of third-party reports or informal community claims. Relying on official sources ensures that residents receive information that is factual, current, and responsibly vetted.

4. Community Integrity and Fairness The Board is committed to fostering a community environment grounded in respect, fairness, and responsible communication. Publicly identifying individuals based on criminal history—particularly without an active law-enforcement advisory—can contribute to misinformation, stigmatization, and unnecessary alarm. The Board must avoid actions that could undermine the cohesion and well-being of the community.



Residents who wish to remain informed about public safety matters are encouraged to consult official resources maintained by law-enforcement agencies. These entities provide verified information regarding crime activity and registered offenders. The following resources are available for public use:

- Flathead County Sheriff's Office – Public Safety and Community Alerts
- Montana Department of Justice – Sexual and Violent Offender Registry
- Local law-enforcement community notification systems

The Board also supports community-driven safety initiatives conducted directly in partnership with law-enforcement professionals, including Neighborhood Watch programs and informational briefings.

We appreciate the continued cooperation of all homeowners in fostering a community grounded in integrity, respect, and responsible communication.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Wood Ridge Homeowners Association