



Daniel Island Neighborhood Association

Safety Committee Meeting

March 2, 2023

6:00-7:30PM

Daniel Island Library

In attendance- Andrea Sullivan, Debbie Geilfuss, Shea Gibson, Tory Sullivan, Lt. Matt Wojslawowicz, Brian Bevon & more than 30 Daniel Island Residents

- Shea Gibson opened the meeting and introduced our speakers: Lt. Matt Wojslawowicz Team 5 and Brian Bevon Attorney
- Andrea polled those in attendance by taking a brief count of the various neighborhoods on Daniel Island that had representation
- Lt. Wojslawowicz presented the City of Charleston Crime Prevention power point which educated residents on safety & security in their neighborhoods as well as knowledge for implementing A Crime Watch program. Handouts were also provided for Residential Burglary Prevention, Apartment Crime Prevention, and Neighborhood Crime Watch
- Brian Bevon Attorney who has represented many landlords and tenants discussed landlord and tenant's rights in relationship to safety and health. He stated landlords are not a guarantor against crime, but encouraged residents to document their concerns and speak to management.
- There was a Q & A throughout the meeting and upon conclusion Andrea encouraged the residents to volunteer with the DINA Safety Committee



Neighborhood Crime Watch Presentation

March 2023 – Daniel Island, SC



Background Information

A neighborhood watch, also called a crime watch, is an organized group of civilians devoted to crime & vandalism prevention within a neighborhood.

The aim of neighborhood watch includes educating residents of a community on security & safety and achieving safe & secure neighborhoods. However, when a criminal activity is suspected, members are encouraged to report to authorities, and not to directly intervene.

In the United States, neighborhood watch builds on the concept of a “town watch” from Colonial America.



History

The current American system of neighborhood watches began developing in the late 1960s as a response to the rape & murder of Kitty Genovese in Queens, New York.

People became outraged after false reports that a dozen witnesses did nothing to save Genovese or to apprehend her killer.

Inspired in part by Jane Jacobs' *The Death & Life of Great American Cities* (1961), which stated that Americans need to keep their "eyes on the streets" and connect with each other in their neighborhoods, national law enforcement agencies began pushing for community members to get more involved with reporting crime at the local level.



History

Some local civilians formed groups to watch over their neighborhoods and to look out for any suspicious activity in their areas.

Shortly thereafter, the National Sheriff's Association began an effort in 1972 to revitalize the "watch group" effort nationwide.

During the first few years of the program, neighborhood watch functioned primarily as an intermediary between local law enforcement and neighborhoods to pass along information about burglaries and thefts in specific neighborhoods. Later, the neighborhood watch became more involved & partnered with law enforcement to report other types of crime.



Specific to Charleston, SC

This program is the primary focus of the Crime Prevention Office.

It encourages residents to become familiar with each other as well as with basic procedures for reporting crime and suspicious activity.

We encourage citizens to: "See it, Hear it, Report it!"

We discourage citizens from getting physically involved in stopping a crime or engaging with suspicious persons.



Specific to Charleston, SC

Neighborhood Crime Watch programs in the City of Charleston can be tailored to the needs of your community.

The central requirements for being certified as a Crime Watch in the City of Charleston are that they are...



Specific to Charleston, SC

1) A primary contact person

This may be the Neighborhood Association President, the HOA, an apartment complex manager, a Crime Watch coordinator or chairperson, or in the case of a small area – a single block captain



Specific to Charleston, SC

2) An updated communication network

This could be electronic, phone-tree, or flyers hung door-to-door



Specific to Charleston, SC

3) An in-person Crime Prevention presentation where a significant portion of residents have been instructed on crime prevention.

This includes steps to take to deter crime around their home and street and how to recognize and report suspicious activity.

In some cases, extensive electronic communication can fulfill this requirement.



Specific to Charleston, SC

- 4) Commitment on the part of residents to immediately notify police of all suspicious activity.

- 5) Commitment to participate in National Night Out, a nationwide prevention event held the second Tuesday in August (or prior weekend)



Specific to Charleston, SC

Obtaining Crime Watch Signs:

New signs will only be issued **after** a neighborhood has been certified as active by the Crime Prevention Office according to the factors listed above.

Contact the Crime Prevention Office directly for procedures.



How to Report a Crime

For **EMERGENCIES** and **IN-PROGRESS CRIMES** – dial **9-1-1**

For suspicious activity, people, or vehicles – call 843.743.7200

Identify yourself (name, address, & contact number)

Describe the type of crime or activity occurring

Where is this occurring? Be as specific as possible!!



How to Report a Crime

Description of the suspect (s)... How many? Armed?

Description of vehicle (s)... License plate? Dents? Etc...?

Direction of travel... Use landmarks... (towards/away from...)

Stay on the line as long as possible

Call a neighbor to watch if they move out of sight



What is Suspicious Activity

Anyone looking into or forcibly entering a car / home

Someone running from a car / home / business

Sound of breaking glass

Someone carrying a weapon

Screams

Stranger offering children candy or gifts



What is Suspicious Activity

Loiterer who doesn't belong in the area

Persons walking around the neighborhood with items which may have been stolen

Anyone ringing or knocking at your door with an unreasonable explanation (or reasonable if they want to "use your phone")

Persons loitering around school grounds

Strange vehicles passing through, parked with occupants, or abandoned for several days, especially with windows left down



Contact Information

For more information on this
and other topics contact:

Charleston Police Department
Crime Prevention Office
180 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29403

(843) 769.7407

CrimePrevention@Charleston-SC.gov
www.Charleston-PD.org

To report illegal and/or
suspicious activity contact:

Charleston Police Department

Via

Consolidated Dispatch Center
(843) 743.7200



Crime Prevention Information



Neighborhood Crime Watch

This program is the primary focus of the Crime Prevention office. It encourages residents to become familiar with each other as well as with basic procedures for reporting crime and suspicious activity. We encourage citizens to "See it, Hear it, Report it!" - but to refrain from getting physically involved in stopping a crime or engaging suspicious persons.

Neighborhood Crime Watch programs in the City of Charleston can be tailored to the needs of your community. The central requirements for being Certified as a Crime Watch in the City are that there are:

- 1) A primary contact person (This may be the Neighborhood President, HOA or apartment complex Manager, Crime Watch Coordinator or Chairperson, or in the case of a small area, a single Block Captain)
- 2) A updated communication network (Electronic, phone-tree, flyers door-to-door)
- 3) An in-person Crime Prevention presentation where a significant portion of residents have been instructed on Crime Prevention. This includes steps to take to deter crime around their home and street, how to recognize and report suspicious activity. (In some cases, extensive electronic communication can fulfill this requirement.)
- 4) Commitment on the part of residents to immediately notify police of all suspicious activity
- 5) Commitment to participate in National Night Out, a nationwide prevention event held the second Tuesday in August (or prior weekend).

Obtaining Crime Watch Signs

New signs will only be issued **after** a neighborhood has been certified as active by the Crime Prevention office, according to the factors listed above. Contact the Crime Prevention office directly for procedures.

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Crime Prevention Information

Residential Burglary Prevention

Residential burglaries most often occur in the daytime when no-one is home. Residents must do their part to reduce their risk by "Hardening-the-Target" against would-be-burglars. This is a basic list of measures to enact at your residence. Also find the "Residential Security Survey" form on this website.

Print and complete it for a detailed analysis of your property.

Exterior

Lighting – Dusk-to-Dawn or Timer is recommended rather than Motion

Out-Buildings/Sheds - Close Locks, Strengthen Latches

Ladders – Secure in garage, or chain to fencing

Battering objects – Secure loose bricks and blocks inside

Unsecured property – Secure bicycles, lawn equipment

Garage Doors - Keep closed to prevent theft/entry

Accesses – Secure dormers, under-house accesses

Shrubbery – Trim down to 3ft, Keep Tree branches above 6 ft

Interior

Door locks – Deadbolts, and long 3" screws in strike plate

Peep Holes – Install 4 1/2 to 5 feet high on door

Sliding Doors – "Charley-Bar", Pin, Screws in top track

Window Locks – Pin Wooden Windows, Key Locks

Valuables Storage – Lock/Store away from regular locations

Property Marking – Engrave Drivers License or other number

Property Inventory – List Brand, Model # ,Serial#, Value

Access to telephone - At least one Corded Phone in house

Interior locks – Locks on Guns and Gun Cabinets, Jewelry

Keys – Who has keys? Is it time to Re-Key Locks?

Door from Garage – Lock it. Garage doors don't always close.

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Crime Prevention Information

Apartment Crime Prevention

THIEVES LOVE APARTMENTS! Apartments provide a concentrated opportunity for a variety of crimes including Burglary, Auto-Theft, Car Break-Ins and Vandalisms, Personal Assault, and Robbery.

A higher ratio of crime occurs in apartment complexes than in most residential neighborhoods. This is due to many factors including population density, a high concentration of cars parked together, unfamiliarity and anonymity of residents, the transient nature of some complex populations, and numerous dark corners on the property.

WHAT APARTMENT RESIDENTS CAN DO

- Promptly report safety hazards to management (lighting damaged/missing, gaps in fences, overgrown shrubbery, malfunctioning door locks, etc.)
- Keep porch lights ON
- Lock deadbolts, window latches, sliding doors
- Request and use peepholes in doors
- Know neighbors by name, recognize their vehicles
- Resolve to report suspicious people and activity to police and management IMMEDIATELY
- Lock cars, NEVER leave them running
- Remove ALL valuables from parked cars (including i-Pods, CDs, purses, cell-phones, change, etc.)
- Take removable faces off car stereo equipment
- Secure vehicles with a CLUB or similar device
- Secure firearms in safes and/or with gun locks (FREE from CPD)
- Pay attention when walking in public
- Be suspicious of strangers

A Neighborhood Crime Watch CAN be established in an apartment complex. Consult with your manager about starting one.

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