



ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT

Neighborhood Watch Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the Rockford Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program. The program involves citizens working together to make their neighborhood a safer and better place to live. The Rockford Police Department Community Services Unit will assist you with this effort of whatever capacity you choose. We can provide assistance in the following ways to help ensure the success of your neighborhood organization. We are committed to your success!

The following suggestions may help you get started.

- Define a manageable area of homes that you wish to include. This area could be as small as a few blocks or as large as a subdivision or condo association.
- Contact your Alderman and notify them of your intent to organize.
- Contact the Community Services Unit as soon as you have selected a date and location for the first meeting. We can assist you with notifying the residents in your area of the meeting through our Reverse 911 calling system. We would like to attend your first meeting and will attend others if you choose to include us.
- Consider using the term “Neighborhood Organization” rather than “Neighborhood Watch”.
- Consider including apartment owners and managers as well as tenants who live in the selected area.
- Always include a fun event such as a neighborhood picnic or combined garage sales to minimize the negative and promote the positive.

We thank you for your interest in forming a Neighborhood Organization. Together we can make a difference in reducing crime and improving the quality of life in your neighborhood.

STARTING & MAINTAINING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Starting a Neighborhood Watch Group Means Getting Involved and Staying involved.

Thank you for your interest in the Rockford Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program. Neighborhood Watch is a total citizen participation in a small area. It involves a cooperative effort between citizens and the Rockford Police Department in a mutual battle against burglary, vandalism and other neighborhood crimes.

Starting a neighborhood watch can seem like an overwhelming task.

- ❑ Where do I start?
- ❑ How do I get my neighbors interested?
- ❑ Who do I need to contact?
- ❑ Will the City help?

Many people become interested in forming a watch group because of crime issues their neighborhood may be experiencing. The problem with this is once the problem has been addressed and is no longer a concern, people lose interest in the group. For this reason we suggest you look beyond just removing crime from and neighborhood, and think about how a watch group can create better neighbor relationships and community partnerships.

Start by talking to your neighbors to see if they are interested in forming a watch group. When planning a new watch group, it is important not to think too big! Remember this is a Neighborhood Watch Group, so define a manageable area. This area could be as small as a few blocks or as large as a subdivision or condo association. By doing so, you will make the group easier to maintain and allow for better communication between neighbors. Once you determine if there is a desire to start a group, contact the Community Services Unit of the Rockford Police Department at 987-5041 and plan your first meeting. This will involve picking a time and date, deciding on a location, and inviting your neighbors. Please coordinate your meeting with your community services officer 2 weeks in advance to ensure their attendance.

The following suggestions will also help in getting your group started.

- ❑ Contact your Alderman and notify them of your intent to organize. You can find out who your alderman is by visiting the City of Rockford's website at www.ci.rockford.il.us.
- ❑ Consider using the term "Neighborhood Organization" rather than "Neighborhood Watch".
- ❑ Consider including apartment owners and managers as well as tenants who live in the selected area.
- ❑ Plan to host events such as neighborhood picnics, garage sales and block parties. This will help promote positive interaction between neighbors.

Thank you for your interest in forming a Neighborhood Organization. Together we can make a difference in reducing crime and improving the quality of life in your neighborhood.



ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Meeting Date ____/____/____

Location _____

Group Contact Person _____

Phone Number _____

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY PAYMENT FOR SIGNS AT
ROCKFORD CITY HALL
425 EAST STATE STREET
[Payment Center]
****** Cost of signs \$18.50 each ******

A formal *Neighborhood Watch* meeting has been held at the above location by a representative of the Rockford Police Department.

Please remember to bring a copy of your map with the sign(s) location(s) clearly marked.
Thank you!



CITY OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

LAWRENCE J. MORRISEY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
MAYOR 420 WEST STATE STREET
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101-1207

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHET EPPERSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Dear Alderman _____:

This is to inform you that on _____, at _____ AM / PM

We will be conducting a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING at

_____, Rockford, Illinois

The organizer of this program is:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

You are welcome to attend and/or to contact the organizer.

Sincerely,



Neighborhood Network

A learning, sharing network of Rockford area neighborhood associations. It is the vision to empower individuals and associations with information to strengthen Rockford area neighborhoods.

612 N. Church St., Rockford IL 61103
Executive Director Lori Gustafson may be reached at
(815)-987-5599

If you have questions/comments or would like to post your neighborhood's events, please email us at
info@rockfordneighbors.com

PHONE TREE

