How To Start a Successful

Neighborhood
Mobile
Watch Patrol

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By Lance Winslow III

C O N T E N T S

F O R W A R D

About 10 years back one of our franchisees had some equipment stolen from his work truck in broad daylight. When he returned to find the equipment missing, no one would reveal who had come near the truck; the witnesses did not want to get involved. That is when The Car Wash Guys decided that they would get involved. Although many of us live in great communities with little crime that does not mean any of us should tolerate any crime. We believe a Zero Tolerance goal is by far the best policy. By uniting the entire community and working together we can decrease the crime we do have and make our community one of the best places in the World a person could ever want to live. We each have a great community and intend to keep it that way. We want our community to be number one in our state and our citizens, friends and families to know that we are all looking out for them and they are looking out for us. No longer will the temptation exist for an unethical situation to occur. The criminals will know that our town is a no fly zone and that it is not only a police car that they need to be concerned with. They will be caught if they attempt anything by the first person who sees them. The ice cream man, the school bus driver, an electrician, a plumber, a pool cleaner, a real estate agent, anyone and everybody will be observing while driving around in their normal course of business.

- Lance Winslow III

O V E R V I E W

Mission Statement: *To help our local police department by becoming the eyes and ears of the community. To establish a power of presence and thus increasing the visibility of our enforcement services. To establish a zone for criminals where the risk of being caught is too high for them to practice their profession. To unite the business community and Chamber of Commerce with the citizens and the local government. To be proactive in law enforcement. To empower people to remain in control of their communities. To lower crime rates and to keep property value high.*

Neighborhood Watch and Community Policing programs are not new. Over the years, these programs have proven to be very effective in deterring crime, and building community ties. This program differs from the traditional Neighborhood Watch programs. In addition to support from government agencies, local police, and residents, participation is also sought from the business community.

People who have jobs which require extensive travel through local communities (like delivery services, real estate agents, and utility companies) are often in positions which they may see crimes in action or suspicious behavior. Sometimes, just by being in a particular area at just the right time, they may even unknowingly act as a deterrent for criminal activity. The Neighborhood Mobile Watch program seeks to enhance a community's crime prevention strategy by providing concerned citizens, whose professions require extensive driving, with proper training and signage materials to even further deter criminal activity.

Learning how to recognize suspicious behavior and knowing which local authorities to contact is one of the key components of the training. Just knowing the correct phone number, rather than dialing 911, can greatly reduce the amount of time it takes for the proper authorities to respond, and keeps 911 lines open for other emergencies. Another key component of the program is providing magnetic signs on business and service vehicles, and using static cling stickers on other vehicles which read: "We report suspicious behavior to our local police department." This lets potential criminals know right away that they should not risk any illegal activity; a trained and aware crime watcher is in the area.

This book outlines the steps, people and groups needed in order to implement a Mobile Neighborhood Watch program for your own neighborhood.