



## Checklist for Starting a Neighborhood Watch Program

### HELPFUL INFORMATION

Facts about crime in your neighborhood, this type of information can be found in police reports, newspapers, and residents' perception about crime.

### BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The police or sheriffs' office's endorsement is critical to a Watch group's credibility. These agencies are the major sources of information on local crime patterns, crime prevention education, and crime reporting.

Local businesses and organizations can help provide fliers and a newsletter, offer meeting places, and distribute crime prevention information. Ask an electronics store to donate cellular phones.

Libraries can provide research materials, videos, computers, and meeting space.

Media can aid Neighborhood Watches by publicizing recruitment drives.

### THINGS YOU WILL NEED

- A person or group of people committed to starting a Neighborhood Watch.
- A planning committee to initiate the program.
- A list of what issues initially need to be addressed in your community.
- A means of communicating with the residents, e-mail, fliers, telephone trees.
- Publicity for the initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- A meeting agenda to keep things moving and on track.
- A place to meet -resident's house or apartment, community center, school, library.
- A crime prevention officer to discuss the crime issues in the neighborhood and to help train members.
- A map of the community with spaces for names, addresses, and phone numbers of all households.
- Brochures or other materials on topics of interest to the residents.
- A sign-up sheet for those interested in becoming block or building captains.
- Neighborhood Watch signs to be posted around the community. Some jurisdictions require a minimum number of participants before Neighborhood Watch signs can be posted