



Miami Springs Community Policing office

274 Westward Drive

Miami Springs, Florida 33166

Phone: 305-888-5286 Fax: 305-805-5155

Dear Miami Springs Resident and/or Business Owner:

Thank you for your interest in Crime Watch. If you would like to start a neighborhood watch group for your area, I have included some information to help you get started. In order to have an effective group, it is recommended that 30% of homes or businesses on your block actively participate. Anyone can join a Crime Watch group, young, old, single, married, renter, homeowner or business owner. A few concerned residents or business owners can spearhead the effort to organize a Crime Watch group. However, it is best to keep your Crime Watch group limited to one or two blocks. The efforts put forth by Crime Watch members helps to prevent future crimes from ever occurring. Below, you will find a few suggestions on how to help get your neighbors involved and form a Crime Watch group.

- 1) Go out and speak with the residents or business in your neighborhood. Make sure participants are willing to be the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. They must also be willing to call the police when they see suspicious activity in the area.
- 2) Start a committee with interested neighbors to plan the first meeting.
- 3) Advertise the meeting to your neighbors. Deliver flyers to each home or business. Invite ALL the neighbors that are in the area that will be the Crime Watch group. The meetings are usually held during the weekdays in the early evening. The meeting is preferably held in the neighborhood at someone's home or business so people can just walk to the location. Having the meeting at someone's home or business in the neighborhood has been found to be much more effective since the objective is to meet and get to know your neighbors.
- 4) Let your neighbors know the meeting will only be about one hour. During the first meeting Block Captain(s) will be determined. This person(s) is responsible for leading and organizing the Crime Watch groups efforts. The meeting will explain how Crime Watch works and how to conduct a successful telephone chain/e-mail which keeps Crime Watch members notified of important information.



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- 5) Once you have a group interested, contact the Community Policing Office to schedule a time and date for your meeting. Officers from the Miami Springs Community Policing Office, who are certified Crime Prevention Practitioners by the Florida Attorney General's Office, will be present at the first meeting to discuss the latest crimes occurring in the city, show how you can make your home more secure, and hand out various materials which discuss ways to prevent becoming a victim of various crimes. The officers will also discuss how to recognize suspicious activities and what information should be relayed when calling the police.

Please give me a call if you have any questions or to help you set up your first neighborhood meeting.

Sincerely,

Officer Janice Simon

305-888-5286

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