



Community Watch

A Community Action & Problem-Solving Program

What is Community Watch?

Community Watch is a crime prevention program that involves individual groups working with the police to affect crime. Crime prevention resources are available online regarding current crime trends, crime prevention, and safety techniques. Community Watch encourages participants to keep a watchful eye, not only on the block where they live but the community as a whole, and report suspicious and potential criminal behavior. Community Watch begins with a block approach and expands to include others in the surrounding area and scope of influence. Participants are encouraged to reach out to businesses, nearby schools, and non-profit organizations to get to know each other and communicate.

What is the role of the Community Watch Coordinator?

Each Patrol Division has a Police Services Specialist (PSS) assigned to coordinate the Community Watch Program. As coordinator, the PSS is responsible for program promotion, fielding program inquiries, scheduling police staff to attend the initial meeting, e-blasting pertinent crime prevention alerts, and responding to community neighborhood concerns.

How does a resident start a Community Watch Group?

- ✓ Residents wishing to initiate Community Watch on their block should call the Divisional PSS to request a Community Watch Brochure.
- ✓ Define your Community Watch group, usually 12 to 20 homes or businesses. Everyone on a block should be invited, including neighbors on the next block. School or faith based representatives, and community leaders should be considered. Purposely excluding renters or specific people causes tension and may make residents feel that they are being discriminated against.
- ✓ At least one person per group needs to volunteer to act as the liaison and will be known as the Community Contact. Usually this is the individual who takes the first step to get the group started. The Community Contact should live or work their block and should not be an absentee property owner or businessperson.

Community Contact's Role

As the Community Contact, you will:

- ✓ Personally introduce yourself to your neighbors to gain residents' support and participation in the program. Your goal is 100% participation. Ask your neighbors what day would be best for them to participate in your first meeting.
- ✓ Schedule your group's initial meeting with the PSS and notify the council office. The meeting is usually 1 hour in length and is held at a home or other nearby location.
- ✓ Prepare and distribute meeting invitations. Re-notify your neighbors just before the meeting.
- ✓ Before your meeting, draw a map that shows your street name and a square for each house/business. Write the address in each block. Make copies for each household.
- ✓ At your meeting - Have an attendance sheet available and assign someone the task of taking meeting notes. This will help track action items. Provide and distribute nametags to encourage attendees to get acquainted. After introductions, discuss a plan for neighborhood communication i.e. email tree, phone tree, regular social gatherings, newsletter. Discuss any neighborhood issues and potential resources or action plan to address them.
- ✓ Keep in touch with the PSS. If you need resources, clarification, or help, do not forget to call.
- ✓ Disseminate information received from the Police Department.
- ✓ Periodically review the LYPD website to provide your group with information.
- ✓ Attend one Police Department organized meeting annually to keep your group on the "active" list.

Participant's Role

As a participant, you will:

- ✓ Get to know your neighbors and build a neighborhood team.
- ✓ Keep a watchful eye and report suspicious or potential criminal behavior.
- ✓ Develop strategies for communicating.
- ✓ Identify and discuss neighborhood problems.
- ✓ Develop a plan of action to resolve problems.
- ✓ Learn about community resources, crime trends, and crime prevention.
- ✓ Call LYPD dispatch, 9-1-1 or (562) 435-6711, to report suspicious or potential criminal behavior.

Additional Crime Prevention Resources and Events

Resources:

- **Crime Prevention Informational Handouts:** are available online through the Police Department website.
- **Crime Watch Newsletter:** is a monthly publication available on the Police Department website. It provides useful information related to crime prevention and community safety.
- **Long Beach Police Department Website:** provides current news releases, information bulletins, reported crime statistics, events and crime prevention information. Visit www.longbeach.gov/police

Events:

- **Leadership Meetings:** are hosted by each Patrol Division. These meeting are open to the public and are designed to provide crime prevention awareness and education. Contact the PSS for more information.
- **National Night Out:** is held annually on the first Tuesday in August. Communities across the nation participate in this campaign to build neighborhood unity and strengthen police-community partnerships. Neighborhood groups are encouraged to spend time outdoors enjoying positive activities.

Contact the Police Services Specialist in your area for additional information:

North Division - 4891 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, Ca 90807

lbpdnorth@longbeach.gov

(562) 570-9825

South Division - 400 W. Broadway, Long Beach, Ca 90802

lbpdsouth@longbeach.gov

(562) 570-5829

East Division - 4800 Los Coyotes Diagonal, Long Beach, Ca 90815

lbpdeast@longbeach.gov

(562) 570-5808

West Division - 1835 Santa Fe, Long Beach, Ca 90810

lbpdwest@longbeach.gov

(562) 570-3461