



**Neighborhood Watch Resident Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2016 – 6:00 pm**

The mission of Neighborhood Watch is to provide information and assistance which encourages neighborhood involvement to be effective watchful neighbors with the goal of reducing crime.

Facilitator: Lisett Lebron

Guest(s): Perth Amboy Police Department – Officer Rodgers

Note Taker: Alibell Marquez

Translator: Valerin Ubri

Attendees: (See Attendance Sheet)

Meeting Notes:

1st Meeting was to inform, educate and reestablish the Neighborhood Watch Program within our community.

Structure of Neighborhood Watch

- 1st position - Neighborhood Watch Coordinator (*Lisett Lebron*) – This person facilitates and puts together logistics of meetings.
- 2nd position - Block Captain (*Spot Open*) – This person is responsible for the residents. They will let them know about when meetings are, who will be in attendance, and will also keep in contact with Officer Rodgers.
- 3rd position (if applies) - Block Captain (*Spot Open*) – Same duties as first Block Captain.

Structure of Neighborhood Watch Meetings

Police officers periodically come out to neighborhood. The Block Captain will talk, break to eat, and go into discussion of the Neighborhood Watch issues and events that want to be held for your block.

Police are Public Servants. They are here to serve and protect us. We are not bothering by calling them. If something is wrong, please reach out to them. Even if they do not find anything, it is better to be safe than sorry.

- When calling the Perth Amboy Police, you may speak to someone from 123 Precinct (Staten Island, NY). DO NOT be alarmed, they will transfer you.

Police Amboy Precinct Telephone Number – 732-442-4400

“The Neighborhood Watchers”

This is someone who is home most of the day. They typically look at their window during the day. They know when you are at work and when you are not home. Usually these people will



vigilantly see something and call it in. Officer Rodgers will provided training on how to correctly call in and give accurate descriptions of the criminal. This person IS NOT the same as Block Captain. This person is considered the “eyes and ears of the Block”

- The Neighborhood Watcher is crucial to write things down, call the police and help deter crime. However, it is not, we repeat, your responsibility is not to confront a criminal. We would not a similar situation occurring like Trayvon Martin. Zimmerman was, indeed, a NW Block Captain. Unfortunately, he took his position too far and attempted to solve a “crime”. Let the Police handle this.

If you develop a relationship with your neighbor than you are able to deter crime!

Energy Lights for the front and back of your house.

Latch Key Children - A child that comes home at a certain time. It is always important to let your neighbor know of what is going on. A criminal can also watch this child/ren and it is important to see each other’s movement.

Vacation Watch Program - Most people do not know about this program!! Free of charge – hello. You are able to go to the Police Headquarters when you are on vacation and let them know of your vacation dates. They will go and check the area, car, and of course, the house.

Safe House for Children - If their parents are not home and God forbid someone is trying to abduct the child by monitoring their movement (to and from school), there would be a house on the block were the children may go to be safe. All parents will know where they are. For this to occur, it is required that residents become familiar and comfortable with one another to establish this relationship. Keep in mind, this is not a babysitting job.

Home Survey Service (for security) – To ensure your house is up to safety regulations, you may call in the Police Department to have them check and see if your house is, in fact, safe. Officers may call a company and get a discount for a group of residents who want to this done to their property.

“A Man’s Duty” – You never know that impact your presence may have to deter any offense. It is always a man’s duty to help a woman or someone that needs help. IF you do not feel safe is helping (seeing a gun or group of people), call the Police.

Career Criminals – Someone walking around cars and looking into them. If you see this, call the Police and describe the person. They may have a history of doing this.

Suspicious Sounds - screaming, disabled car alarms, loud music, yelling for HELP (go to the window not outside), breaking glass (9 out of 10 times this is someone breaking into a house),



random sounds, abusive sounds (cursing, arguing, yelling between people). Immediately call the police and report this. This will alert the police. **gun shots: DO NOT go out when you hear this.

City Ordinances (esp. for loud music times): This will be discussed in the next meeting

Dressing dark – most people do dress like this, even the police but if it makes you uncomfortable, please call the police and report them.

Resident Concerns expressed during meeting

- Street Lighting
- Cleanliness. Each block has to be maintained clean, *not* just one house on the block. *“It is a shame that this program did not come earlier. Why did it not come earlier? I was attacked by someone and this would have been able to help me understand strategies and mechanisms to help myself.” – Gloria*

End of Meeting Resident Commentary

- Bill Meade – Would like a feeling of neighborhood. For people to feel like they belong.
- Manuel Valdez – Prospect Ave. His desire is for the blocks to be maintained clean, everyone protects on another, and there is unity and respect.
- Ceasar – Prospect Ave. He would like more security. And the streets to have more lighting.
- Dina – from Hansen building. Wants to be more informed.
- Lidia – from Hansen building. Wants everyone to take care of each other and unity.
- Gloria – She is very excited. She wants this is to successful and this is very important for the city of Perth Amboy. She wants this program to be maintained.
- Juana – 327 Market St. This is important to get to know one another, be informed, and help one another.
- Minerva – She is the loveliest and friendliest person on her block (Prospect St) – She waits that this continues and shows results.
- Carlita – Hansen building. She is happy that the police comes to the Hansen promptly. She feels safe knowing the Police are here for us.
- Fernando Gonzalez – Councilman and Board Member of PARTNER. He is here to help the community.
- Dominga – Market St. This is very important because there needs to be more security for kids/ She feels that there is no respect especially for the Crossing Guards. Her son who is a 1st grader, had his gold chain robbed during the summer. He goes to Richardson School.

NEXT MEETING - Jan 12th @ 6 PM (Paola’s Birthday – Dominga’s Sister)

NEXT MEETING TOPIC POINTS



City Ordinances

How to call in and report something

Nixle System

Carmelo Melendez – charge of Crossing Guards will come for next meeting