

## Neighborhood Watch

### Minutes

March 16, 2010

Attendees:

Scott Egloff, Resident Coordinator

Bob Lyford

Kathy Strom, Mayor

Hiroko McCamey

Doug Murphy

Dennis Carroll

Carole Minor

Dave Eason

Terry Eason

Alicia Delaune

Dana Stroman, Community Police Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Warren Rizzi, Town Coordinator

Meeting came to order at 7:00pm.

Warren Rizzi and Officer Stroman gave an update on the status of the Neighborhood Watch signs. They were ordered a few weeks ago but their delivery was delayed due to the snow storm. Officer Stroman said they should be delivered in the next couple weeks. One member suggested that it would be beneficial to have the signs installed prior to Trash and Treasures weekend. Extra signs were ordered just in case.

At the March Council meeting, the Council decided that more involvement from the Town would be beneficial for the NW program. They decided that along with the Resident Coordinator, a Town Coordinator would help the continuity of the program. The Town coordinator will help with the administrative side of the program and coordinate with the County and police.

One resident mentioned that the Town attempted a Neighborhood Watch program in the late 80s when there was some criminal activity. It never fully materialized.

Officer Stroman provided an update of recent crime statistics and trends. There has been criminal activity in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District out in Potomac. The police have found a pattern of home burglaries in the Potomac region across Seven Locks Road. The thefts seem to be committed by the same criminals. They are known to break down front or back door and quickly steal all the jewelry and, in some cases, electronics. They commit the burglaries during daylight hours. Also, the police have noted a decrease in theft from vehicles but an increase in residential burglaries.

Officer Stroman encouraged residents to lock their bike as bicycle thefts increase in the spring and summer months. "Criminal transient groups" increase during warmer months.

Pick pocketing has been reported in the Friendship Heights commercial district. Office Stroman emphasized that if residents see anything at all suspicious, they should report it directly to the police non-emergency number.

Officer Stroman reported that the County is setting up a call center for all County issues. Residents would simply dial "311" to report any incidents or find out about a certain issues. The 311 option is not limited to crime reporting but would encompass all County issues. As this is a relatively new system, there are still problems that need to be fixed. Officer Stroman encouraged everyone to call the police non-emergency number instead at 301-279-8000.

Alert Montgomery is another tool the County is offering to keep residents abreast of traffic alerts, crime incidents, and other important information. Residents can sign up online to receive alerts instantly via text or email. Residents can receive alerts on weather, traffic, accidents, and crimes instantly.

Officer Stroman encouraged the NW program members to contact her if she could help in anyway.

The group discussed next steps for the program. The program still needs additional block captain volunteers. There is a Public Safety Informational Session that the NW program is organizing which will serve as a great opportunity to recruit new members. The information session is open to all Town residents to learn more about how to keep their person, family, vehicles, and homes safe. Samantha Nolan, the NW Coordinator from Chevy Chase D.C., will give a presentation on personal safety and tips on how to keep your homes safe. Officer Dana Stroman will also speak and offer her advice on public and personal safety. A question and answer session will be held at the end.

There is a NW meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> prior to the safety informational session, which is scheduled for May 24. The group will divide up the blocks that will be covered by each block captain. Following the information session, block captains will begin to coordinate with their neighbors to let them know that the program is launching. The block captains agreed that a pamphlet should be developed about the NW program and a postcard should go out about the public safety informational session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.