



Recommendation Submission/Response Form

Referenced CASA area (A,B,C,D,E): A, B & C

This response is in reference to recommendation #17-08 Neighborhood Watch and Safety Advocates Committee/ Area Command Northeast

Responsible SME: L. Kuehn

Date received: 7/17/17

Date returned: 4/25/19

RECOMMENDATION (Recommendation/Reasoning must be 500 words or less for submission):

We recommend the department strengthen Neighborhood Watches, build a Block Captains' communication network, and facilitate Community Policing through Neighborhood Watches by implementing the following:

1. Work with groups like NWSA, CPC's, the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC), and the Albuquerque Block Captains Association (ABCA) to rewrite rules and regulations that govern formation and operations of neighborhood watch groups. This effort should emphasize creating small, workable units that can be easily formed and maintained. Specifically watch requirements should reduce the maximum size of a watch to 15 homes.
2. Create a mobile app to allow for increased communication between block captains and watch participants. This app should also allow APD officers and command staff to quickly post notifications to block captains i.e. "Traffic closed on Spain at Wyoming," would be posted to captains in the immediate vicinity. This would differ from Nextdoor in that this would be controlled access, directly managed by APD, and focus only on local crime. Development of this app should utilize local talent.
3. Facilitate events that encourage block captains and other members of neighborhood watches to network and receive further training.
4. Update crime prevention materials - in both format & content. Condense the most important information into one "Quick tips" flyer for general crime prevention. These materials should also be available online and through the app listed above.

5. Work with ONC to encourage existing neighborhood associations to push neighborhood watches.

Create a public service announcement to inform the public about watches, the app, and other efforts to prevent crime. Ideally this should involve outreach to local media arts programs in the schools to create the best and most innovative ad. This is also another way to reach youth communities and show the positive and proactive side of policing.

APD RESPONSE/REASONING:

Guidance for Neighborhood Watch is taken from the National Sheriffs' Association, National Crime Prevention Council, and Bureau of Justice Assistance. All reference "recruit and organize as many neighbors as possible."

The Albuquerque Police Department recommends organizing a one block area. Blocks in Albuquerque typically range from 10 – 25 homes. Limiting the size to 15 homes, potentially splitting a block, may cause division and contention among neighbors; a best practice is to select a Co-Captain for the block to assist with the duties. The APD works with the ONC, CPCs, Neighborhood Associations, the Albuquerque Block Captains Association and the NWSA to promote Neighborhood Watch.

The APD currently has a mobile app available for download that provides alerts to users. In addition, APD provides alerts through Twitter. Developing a separate app is cost prohibitive.

The APD, in partnership with the ABCA, hosts Spring and Fall conferences for Block Captains; in addition, Area Commands host events such as Coffee with the Commander and other training opportunities.

In order to encourage the creation of new Neighborhood Watches we have:

- Eliminated the previously required "50% Rule" requiring fifty percent of households to be represented at the initial organizing meeting.
- Regularly discuss the formation of a Neighborhood Watch at meetings with Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, and the CPCs.
- Include starting a Neighborhood Watch as part of general Crime Prevention workshops for civic organizations, churches, etc.
- Include information on forming a Neighborhood Watch as a general recommendation in Home Security Survey reports.

- Empower and support Neighborhood Associations and Block Captains who go door to door handing out Neighborhood Watch brochures and discussing the advantages of organizing.
- Provide interested Neighborhood Associations and Block Captains with an electronic copy of a Neighborhood Watch starter packet to distribute to members and neighbors outside of the organized blocks.
- Support “out of the box” thinking with a Neighborhood Associations that are working to have all board members also become Block Captains.
- Invite interested parties from adjacent blocks to audit a Neighborhood Watch meeting and/or include multiple blocks and select a Block Captain for each.
- Distribute Neighborhood Watch brochures through the Property Crimes PSAs as part of a Crime Prevention packet distributed to victims.

Crime prevention materials are currently under review for relevance and redesign; the materials will be available in PDF format for easy distribution and posting on cabq.gov/police.

Purchasing advertisement time from local media stations for a PSA is cost prohibitive; social media options may be a viable alternative.

The bulk of the CPC recommendation is currently a practice of the APD Crime Prevention Specialists, is planned, or is in progress. Parts of the recommendation referencing creating an app and purchasing airtime are, unfortunately, cost prohibitive.

Based on the above, I recommend it be denied.

Chief made aware of recommendation: Yes No

Recommendation Status: Approved Denied Needs more time