



CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

RECOMMENDATION SUBMISSION FORM

X	A: Reviewing and assessing the propriety and effectiveness of law enforcement priorities and related community policing strategies, materials & training.
X	B: Reviewing and assessing concerns or recommendations about specific APD policing tactics & initiatives.
X	C: Providing information to the community and conveying feedback from the community
	D: Advising the Chief on recruiting a diverse work force
X	E: Advising the Chief on ways to collect and publicly disseminate data and information including information about APD compliance with the CASA in a transparent and public friendly format.

CPC Area Command: Northeast

DATE SUBMITTED: _____ Seven (7) business days after submission

RECEIPT DUE: _____ Twenty (20) business days after submission¹

APD RESPONSE DUE: _____ Sixty (60) business days after submission

¹ Revised April 2017

RATIONALE:

The Neighborhood Watch and Safety Advocates Committee (NWSA) of the Northeast Area Command Community Policing Council (NECPC) released its first annual report in the month of March. The report included a number of findings based on the experiences of those on the committee and the committee's outreach to neighborhood watch leaders (Block Captains) and other community stakeholders. The report is attached to this recommendation.

In the view of the NECPC, Neighborhood Watch programs are a critical element of community policing in Albuquerque. This is particularly important due to the current shortage of police officers and high levels of property crime, often resulting in part from poor education on crime prevention and awareness.

- Neighborhood watch participants serve as additional eyes on the street for our community, hence reducing the need for patrols.
- Watch participants are more educated on crime prevention issues relative to the average citizen.
- Watch participants can educate neighbors on crime prevention matters and build tight-knit communities that are better able to prevent crime.

We believe neighborhood watch programs are an underutilized resource in Albuquerque. Much of the literature on watches and crime prevention looks to have been created and printed in the 1980's or earlier. Many of the regulations and policies regarding neighborhood watch were created at a time many decades ago when neighborhoods were more active and civic engagement was high. Getting 51% of a 30 or 40 home block to a meeting is a great challenge when many individuals do not know their neighbors, and many of those neighbors are loath to answer the door to a stranger. Moreover, existing watch participants, particularly leaders like block captains, have no communication with APD after the initial setup meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

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.