



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: LEARN AND LAUNCH**

**TOWN HALL**

**Thursday  
November 17, 2022  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

In person only at the Snohomish Carnegie, 105 Cedar Avenue. Due to the nature of the Town Hall format, neither remote access nor recording will be feasible.

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**AGENDA**

- 6:00 1. **INTRODUCTION:**  
a. Introduce Commission Members and Staff  
b. Explain Purpose  
c. Give Overview of Format
- 6:10 2. **STORIES:** Benefits of a Neighborhood Watch Program
- 6:30 3. **PRESENTATION:** Snohomish Police Department
- 6:45 4. **DISCUSSION:** How to Start a Watch
- 6:55 5. **Q & A SESSION**
- 7:10 6. **BREAK INTO GROUPS:**  
a. Police Department  
b. Neighborhood Watch  
c. Commission
- 7:55 7. **CONCLUSION**
- 8:00 8. **ADJOURN**

*Specialized accommodations will be provided with 5 days advanced notice. Contact the City Clerk's office at 360-568-3115. This organization is an Equal Opportunity Provider.*

# Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watches

## Our Mission Statement

The Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watches is a non-political organization of neighborhood block watches within the City of Snohomish. Our sole purpose is to strengthen community connection, prevent crime, and increase safety.

## City Council Sponsoring Member

Donna Ray, Position One

## Advisory Body

City of Snohomish Public Safety Commission

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## Start your own Neighborhood Watch

- **Consider size and boundaries.** Generally neighbors should be able to see each other's houses.
- **Set a date and time for the event.** Consider seasonality and what else is going on in the community.
- **Invite our Snohomish Police Department liaison and the Public Safety Commission to your event.** Your guests can answer questions and share ideas for getting organized.
- **Recruit interested members.** A great way to do this is to go door-to-door with a printed flyer for the kickoff event.
- **At the event** set out a signup sheet where people can add their names, house numbers, and contact information.
- **Decide on particular focus areas, if any.** Crime prevention? Disaster planning?
- **Choose your captains or co-captains.** They will be the main contact and keep the watch organized.
- **Decide how often you'll meet.** If you're not sure, a good start is quarterly.
- **Choose how you'll stay in touch.** Email lists, a Facebook group, and text threads are all good options. [Note: NextDoor has pre-set neighborhood boundaries that do not allow editing, so it's best to use a platform that's more flexible.]
- **Stay updated.** Follow the City of Snohomish on social media or watch your inbox for the *Snohomish Quarterly* magazine.

# Neighborhood Watch

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The Neighborhood Watch program is a partnership between city residents and the Snohomish Police Department. This partnership is facilitated by the Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watch whose purpose is to provide coordination between neighborhoods within the City of Snohomish to strengthen community connection and standardize the approach to neighborhood watch, crime prevention and disaster planning.

Neighborhood Watch is built upon the notion that crime prevention is a shared responsibility. Citizens help by:

- Reporting crime and suspicious activity when you see it
- Getting acquainted with your neighbors
- Reducing the opportunity for crime to occur in your neighborhood

Research indicates that organized neighborhoods suffer fewer crime and quality of life issues than those communities that are unorganized.

## **Current Neighborhood Watch Groups**

Several neighborhoods of the City of Snohomish already have Neighborhood Watch programs.

- Morgantown
- Weaver Way
- Blackman's Lake
- Central
- Downtown Corridor

To add your watch to the registry, contact Donna Ray, email: [donnalynnray@gmail.com](mailto:donnalynnray@gmail.com) or phone (425) 760-8528.

# **Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watch**

The Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watch is the City's main resource to help citizens create watches and coordinate information between existing ones. The Coalition assists in and guides formation of neighborhood watch with oversight from the Snohomish Public Safety Commission and input from the Snohomish Police, Council, Mayor and city staff.

The role of the City and local police in these programs is limited. The City provides the information that is contained in the National Neighborhood Watch Program and to coordinate city wide events that provide residents with the opportunities to interact with other Neighborhood Watch Captains and members. The city and law enforcement do not provide training outside of the materials and information outlined in the national program.

## **Benefits of Neighborhood Watch**

Neighborhood Watch . . .

- Reduces your risk of being a victim of crime
- Trains you how to observe and report suspicious behavior
- Gets you acquainted with your neighbors
- Keeps you informed of criminal activity in your area
- Creates a connection to the deputies who patrol your neighborhood
- Teaches you how to address neighborhood nuisances
- Gives you a greater sense of security Empowers and strengthens your neighborhood

## **Start a Neighborhood Watch**

Any community resident can spearhead the effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch.

Below are the basic steps to follow to get started.

1. Set a date and time for your first meeting and invite your neighbors. Hand delivered or in person invitations yield the best response, but you can also invite via social media if you are already connected to the people you want to include in your Neighborhood Watch.
2. Be specific about who you invite to your first meeting as this will establish the size of your watch. Keep the size manageable. It is recommended that you limit your watch to no more than 15 houses on the same street. This is so that you are able to observe and report effectively.
3. Invite a police representative to your first meeting. They will educate you and

your neighbors about the Neighborhood Watch effort and be able answer any questions you may have about reporting policies etc. specific to your community.

## **At Your First Meeting**

1. Confirm the geographical boundary. If there is interest beyond this boundary expressed by other neighbors encourage the formation of separate Neighborhood Watches.
2. Collect names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for all who attend and establish a communication tool i.e. phone tree, email list or facebook page. It is not recommended that you use Next Door or similar as these won't be specific to your watch group. Whichever tool you choose will be used specifically to report suspicious activity between neighbors and for announcing neighborhood watch sponsored events such as meetings, picnics, disaster preparedness etc.
3. Choose a captain or co-captains. These individuals will be the main contact within the Neighborhood Watch to help organize meetings/events and keep the watch organized.

*The Block Watch program is not intended to form citizen crime watch patrol or vigilante groups. You are asked only to report the situation to the police and let us handle it. It is not a good idea to confront any suspicious person (s) or attempt to make an arrest yourself; your safety could be in jeopardy.*

## Contact Us

### **Sgt. Chris Veentjer**

Administrative Sergeant, Snohomish PD  
[christopher.veentjer@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:christopher.veentjer@co.snohomish.wa.us)  
(425) 508-0451

### **Peter Messinger**

Public Safety Commissioner  
[peter.messinger1951@gmail.com](mailto:peter.messinger1951@gmail.com)

# A Connected Neighborhood is a Protected Neighborhood

## *Starting Your Own Neighborhood Watch in Snohomish*



What's the purpose of a Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watches, first and foremost, create a neighbor-to-neighbor connection.

By forming and joining a Neighborhood Watch, you and your neighbors have agreed to build community and look out for each other.

Isn't Neighborhood Watch a crime prevention tool?

We don't have much crime on our street.

It can be, yes—and so much more.

With an established Neighborhood Watch, you can feel comfortable reaching out to neighbors and offering or asking for help.

What are potential outcomes of forming one?

- Understanding who to call about concerns—and when
- Getting to know your local law enforcement
- Collaborating on disaster preparedness
- Looking out for neighbors with special needs

Is there a structural format we have to follow?

Not at all! What works for one community might not work for another. Your watch will decide how to stay in touch, when to meet, how formal or informal the meetings are, whether you'll center around fun activities, etc. The ultimate goal is fostering community; how you get to that goal is up to you.

I'm interested! How do we get started?

- **Consider the size.** Generally, neighbors should be able to see each other's houses.
- **Set a date and time for the event.** Consider seasonality and what else is going on in the community.
- **Invite our SPD liaison and the Public Safety Commission to your event.** Your guests can answer questions and share ideas for getting organized.
- **Recruit interested members.** A great way to do this is to go door to door with a printed flyer for the kickoff event.
- **At the event,** set out a signup sheet where people can add their names, house numbers, and contact information.
- **Choose your captains or co-captains.** They will be the main contact and keep the watch organized.

# A Connected Neighborhood is a Protected Neighborhood

*Starting Your Own Neighborhood Watch in Snohomish*



What a Neighborhood Watch is

- ✓ Getting to know our neighbors around us
- ✓ Learning home security tips from our police department
- ✓ Looking out for each other, and feeling comfortable helping
- ✓ Knowing how to identify and report concerning activity (such as signs of a burglary)

What a Neighborhood Watch is Not

**X Policing - we leave that to our trained law enforcement**

**Learn more:**

<https://www.snohomishwa.gov/679/Neighborhood-Watch>

<https://www.nnw.org/>

## What is the Public Safety Commission?

The PSC acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council to inform Council of decisions and policy in all matters pertaining to public safety. The Commission focuses on public safety issues and acts as a conduit and forum for public input in all matters pertaining to public safety including but not limited to crime incidences and trends, life safety issues, neighborhood watch, emergency preparedness, traffic calming measures, pedestrian safety and seasonal and emergent public safety issues. The commission, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, shall support and promote community efforts to utilize the Neighborhood Watch Program, disaster preparedness, and CERT team programs.

## **Benefits of Neighborhood Watch**

### **Neighborhood Watch . . .**

- Reduces your risk of being a victim of crime
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- Teaches you how to address neighborhood nuisances
- Gives you a greater sense of security
- Empowers and strengthens your neighborhood

For more information visit our webpage

[www.citi.snohomish.wa.us/City Services/Police & Safety/Neighborhood Watch](http://www.citi.snohomish.wa.us/City_Services/Police_&_Safety/Neighborhood_Watch)

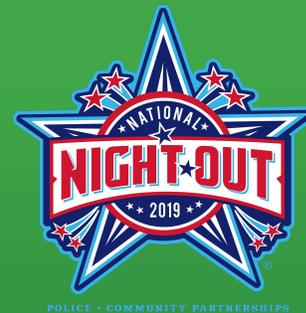
Over.....

## **Start A Neighborhood Watch**

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# National Night Out Safety Tips



- 1 Be active in your community, join your neighborhood watch or neighborhood association and get to know your neighbors.
- 2 Don't be afraid to say something! Learn local non-emergency numbers and teach your kids how to dial 9-1-1. If something doesn't seem right, report it to authorities.
- 3 Have an emergency plan that includes accidents at home, fire, weather emergencies, and other unpredictable events. Make sure all family members understand the plan.
- 4 Follow local police and fire agencies on social media, and sign up for emergency alerts if your community offers them to get all updates and notifications.
- 5 Sign up at Smart911.com to create your Safety Profile that will give 9-1-1 and responders the information they need to help you.

Sign Up For Free At [Smart911.com](http://Smart911.com)



## Word Search

Can you find all of these safety terms in the word search below? Look up, down, and side to side.

- Safety Profile
- Smart Police
- Fire EMS
- NineOneOne
- Dispatcher
- Community
- Emergency Responder

C	D	R	E	S	P	O	N	D	E	R	C
O	R	I	M	X	P	R	O	F	I	L	E
M	B	H	E	F	Q	S	M	A	R	T	D
M	F	I	R	E	T	A	I	L	N	P	H
U	E	Z	G	A	J	F	K	N	B	O	J
N	I	N	E	O	N	E	O	N	E	L	K
I	Q	N	N	R	E	T	G	D	M	I	L
T	S	G	C	I	D	Y	F	V	S	C	T
Y	W	H	Y	K	X	O	P	M	V	E	Y
G	D	I	S	P	A	T	C	H	E	R	U

## Spot the Difference

Can you find the 8 differences between these two pictures?



Sign Up Today



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