



## DERRY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH START-UP GUIDE

The Neighborhood Watch is community-based program which has been proven to deter crime. The program allows the police to work local organizations and individual citizens to reduce residential crime. Any resident can take part whether you are young or old, home owner or renter.

Members learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report suspicious activity to the police. Watch groups are not vigilantes, only the extra eyes and ears for reporting crimes and helping neighbors.

#### Getting Started:

1. Form a small planning committee.
2. Contact as many neighbors as possible and ask them if they would be willing to take part in the program.
3. Contact a Derry Police Department Community Relations Officer to schedule a presentation on the Neighborhood Watch program.
4. Select a Neighborhood Watch **coordinator** and **block captains** who are responsible for organizing meetings and gathering information.
5. Recruit new members, keep up to date on new residents and make sure that the elderly, working parents, and property management (*if applicable*) are equally involved.
6. Work with the Police to put highly visible signs in the neighborhood to alert criminals that citizens are watching their activities in order to deter and discourage them.

#### What to Look for:

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking into windows of houses, apartments, or vehicles.
- Unusual noises.
- Property being taken out of houses, apartments, or vehicles.
- Vehicles moving slowly through neighborhood with no lights on or apparent destination.
- A stranger running through private yards or common areas.
- A stranger sitting in a vehicle or stopping to talk to a child.
- Abandoned Vehicles.