**Subject: How to Start Your Own Neighborhood Watch**

Hello XXXXXXX,

Working together with your neighbors builds a sense of community and helps reduce crime. If your neighborhood does not yet have a neighborhood watch group here are some simple tips to help you get started.

**Start the conversation.** Begin by talking with your neighbors about putting together a neighborhood watch. Find out who is interested and recruit them.

**Contact your local Sheriff’s Department and Schedule a Meeting.** It is a great idea to have the Sheriff’s department attend and present at your first meeting. If they are unable to make it make sure you stay in close communication with them. It is important to collaborate with your local Sheriff’s Department.

**Invite your neighbors to the meeting.** Set a meeting date and time that works best for most. Try to avoid weekends. Usually weekday evenings are best. Put together an invitation and deliver to neighbors two weeks before the meeting. Recruit a few volunteers to help you distribute the invitations to the neighborhood.

**Host your first meeting and create a plan.** At your first meeting you will want to discuss the main concerns of the neighborhood and how to address those concerns. This would be a good time to also establish who will be the leaders of the group, the block captains, the law enforcement liaison, and who will handle communications for the group.

**Create a communication plan.** As a group you will need to decide the best methods for communication such as text, email, a Facebook group or page, and meetings.

**Next, register your group.** You can go to <https://nnw.org/user> to create an account for your watch group. If you have questions you can email nw@sheriffs.org.

**Host meetings and events.** There are a lot of great resources for your meetings and events that can be found at<https://www.nnw.org/toolkit>. You will want to put together meetings and events that help address the concerns of the neighborhood that were laid out in the plan from the first meeting. Here are a few examples of the types of presentations and events you can host: Back to School Safety, Holiday Safety, Crime Prevention, First Aid Training.

Warmly,

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