

CAPS TIPS

Brought to you by the Chicago Police Department
Your Partners for Safe Neighborhoods

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD

An organized neighborhood is a safer neighborhood. But how can you get your neighbors involved? Here are some practical tips for building safer neighborhoods -- block by block, by enlisting the active participation of your neighbors. These tips should enable you and the families on your block to build and/or maintain a network of committed residents to create and sustain a safe and secure environment for all your neighbors, particularly the children and youth of your neighborhood.

_Get to Know Your Neighbors: Place a high priority on building good relationships with your neighbors. Only by knowing who lives on the block can you know when strangers are hanging around. Also, neighbors are a great security system -- if you have to go out of town, having someone keep an eye on your home can keep you from becoming a victim of crime. Also, getting together with your neighbors provides an opportunity to become more aware of one another's concerns, discuss issues and decide whether some collective activity is needed to address the issues and concerns discussed.

_Form Neighborhood Watches: Keeping an eye out for crime is an important way you can help build a safer neighborhood. Things your neighborhood watch can or should do include establishing a telephone tree, which can help you communicate effectively with your neighbors in times of emergency, organizing neighborhood patrols, or engaging in positive loitering. Being out on the streets helps keep you informed of what's going on in the neighborhood and sends a signal that you care. Your neighborhood watch should stay in touch with your beat officers and your district's Neighborhood Relations office. Neighborhood Relations can provide you with advice and resources.

_Attend Your Beat Meetings: Attending beat meetings ensures you and your neighbors that the issues, concerns

and problems of your block become a part of the problem-solving process on your beat. In addition, beat meetings can provide residents of adjacent blocks the opportunity to identify and discuss trends that may be emerging in a neighborhood even if they have not yet become apparent on every single block.

_Work on Common Projects: Working a community garden or cleaning the block several times a year not only makes the block more attractive for all residents, it can make it unattractive for criminals. It sends a message to everyone that the families of the block are concerned about the well-being of their children and homes and are committed to working together. Such projects can also lend a sense of stability to the block and the surrounding neighborhood.

_Celebrate: Holding annual Summer (or Spring and Fall) block parties gives neighbors a chance to relax and enjoy the friendships they have built in the community and acknowledge the accomplishments the families on the block have achieved.

✓Get Involved: For more information about how you can get involved in community policing activities in your neighborhood, call 311 or visit the department home page at www.cityofchicago.org

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