

MIRACLE MILE

RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

STEP 3



**BE AN ACTIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH**

CHANGING HOW WE NEIGHBOR
TO DETER CRIME AND BUILD COMMUNITY

STEP 3: NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

*Want to know the best crime prevention device ever invented?
A good neighbor!*

1. WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program which enlists the active participation of neighbors in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime in our community.

Did you know that the police say the most powerful crime fighting tool they have is an organized Neighborhood Watch?

What does a Neighborhood Watch sign mean in our neighborhood?

It means that we are secure

1. We have taken measures to secure our homes including locking doors, windows, using alarms, private patrol, surveillance cameras and have adequate outdoor lighting all night long.
2. We have taken measures to secure our property and belongings, including inventories of personal property and engraving our valuables with a number identifiable to us.

It means that we are organized

1. We are watching out for each other.
2. We communicate with each other using the phone tree, email, text and other means.
3. We hold meetings; organize block parties and other functions to bring the neighborhood together.

It means that we are trained

1. We know what is suspicious and how to be a good witness.
2. We know what to report to police, how to report it and are not afraid to report suspicious activities.
3. We attend training meetings, when possible, and read training information whenever available.

It means that we are committed

1. We will watch out for our neighbors.
2. We will be a witness and work with the police department to solve crimes.
3. We will work with each other in solving neighborhood problems.
4. We will support the Neighborhood Watch program, the program leaders and keep the program active.

IMPORTANT!

- Neighborhood Watch volunteers do not replace local police authority and are limited to **observing and reporting** criminal activity or suspicious behavior.
- Neighborhood Watch means vigilant, not vigilante. Going beyond being the eyes and ears of the community can lead to conflicts and potentially lawsuits.

The more people that are actively involved in a Neighborhood Watch, the stronger the network, the better the deterrence of crime and the more connected a neighborhood will be.

2. WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR?

- ✓ **Something that feels uncomfortable or looks out of place**
- ✓ **Behavior is suspicious, not persons.**
- ✓ **An event is out of the ordinary or one that should not be occurring**
- ✓ Truant juveniles with backpacks during school hours
- ✓ A stranger loitering in your neighborhood
- ✓ Stranger walking on private property or alleyway
- ✓ Someone checking car doors/peering through car windows
- ✓ People knocking on doors to residential properties
- ✓ Cars, vans or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or suspiciously parked in front of property
- ✓ Someone who sits in their car for long periods of time
- ✓ Vehicles without front or rear licenses plates
- ✓ Vehicles following you while you are walking
- ✓ Vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly.
- ✓ Multiple persons who appear to be working in unison and exhibiting suspicious behaviors.
- ✓ People acting as lookouts
- ✓ Suspects being dropped off and then picked up at end of street
- ✓ Solicitors presenting an unknown charity
- ✓ Someone loitering around schools, parks, or secluded areas.
- ✓ Strange odors coming from a house, building, or vehicle.
- ✓ Open or broken doors and windows at a closed business or unoccupied residence.
- ✓ Someone tampering with electrical, gas, or sewer systems without an identifiable company vehicle or uniform.
- ✓ Persons arriving or leaving from homes or businesses at unusual hours.
- ✓ Signs of forced entry or tampering with security or safety systems.
- ✓ Screaming or shouting for help
- ✓ Unusual noises
- ✓ Property being taken out of a home where no one is at home
- ✓ Anyone being forced into a vehicle

3. WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS:

“See Something, Say Something” “When in Doubt, Call”

Neighborhood Watch participants should report their observations of suspicious activities to law enforcement. However, citizens should never try to take action on those observations. Trained law enforcement should be the only ones ever to take action based on observations of suspicious activities.

#1 - Call immediately and report suspicious activity. In case of an emergency or a crime in progress - call 911. In non-emergency situations - call 1-877-ASK-LAPD or dispatch at 213-928-8223. Staying calm will help you to better respond to questions ask by the dispatcher. Be prepared to give as much information as possible such as your name, address and phone number; location, what is happening, if it is a crime or suspected crime – a description of the suspect, suspect vehicle, direction of travel, and license plate. **WHEN IN DOUBT – CALL IT IN!**

#2 - Call your Private Patrol after you call LAPD. Patrol arrives promptly often within minutes.

#3 - Do not follow or confront persons with suspicious behavior

#4 - Report all suspicious activity to your Senior Lead Officer Perry Jones 27507@lapd.online and his cell: (213) 793-0782 or Senior Lead Officer Hebel Rodriguez 35738@lapd.online and his cell: (213) 793-0715

#5 - Notify your block captain by call/text/email – see “communication” below

NOTE:

- California is not a state that has enacted “stand your ground” laws.
- MMNHW does not condone the use of violence.
- You have every right to protect yourself, family and property. There is a limit.
- “LET THEM GO!” Property is not worth your life.
- Remember: What you can use against them, can be used against YOU!

The information detailed on this website or included in this packet is only provided as a resource.

4. WHY REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR AND CRIME?

The purpose of reporting of suspicious activity is to activate LAPD and private patrol which:

- deters crime
- stops criminal activity
- increases police/patrol presence in your neighborhood
- restores/maintains a safe neighborhood

Some people fail to call because they are not aware of activities that might be suspicious. Others may notice suspicious activity and hesitate to call for fear of being labeled a “nosy neighbor.” Still others take it for granted that someone else has already called. Always report suspicious activity and all crimes because **police don’t know there’s a problem unless they are informed that there is a problem.**

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal by any means. There are many door-to-door salesmen, repairmen, and servicemen moving around our neighborhoods all the time. But criminals do take advantage of this by pretending to be legitimate workmen. Be aware of knock-knock crimes and how to prevent them (see “Step 1: Secure Your Property”)

5. WHAT SHOULD I REPORT WHEN I SEE SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR?

If you SEE or HEAR someone breaking the law, try to REMEMBER what they look like and quickly REPORT them to the police.

The most valuable aid you can give a police officer about a crime is information on the identification of suspects. This and the facts you observe about the crime itself are the two main points on which an officer bases their investigation. These two items can, in many cases, be far more important than the findings made through scientific investigation at the scene such as finger prints, foot casts, etc. Many times, such evidence is non-existent Be sure to make a written note of as many of the following as possible. When reporting a crime or suspicious activity do not hang up the telephone until you are sure the dispatcher has all the information.

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION SHOULD INCLUDE: Sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, eye color, glasses type, tattoos, scars, complexion, hat (color/type), tie, coat, shirt, pants, and shoes.

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION SHOULD INCLUDE: License number, State of issue & color of license plate, vehicle color, make/model, body style (2 door, 4 door, convertible, etc.), identifying scratches or dents, year, and, if vehicle leaves before police arrive, which direction was the vehicle last seen traveling.

Did you know that California plates are 1 number/3 letters/3 numbers? For example, 7ABC321

All neighborhood watch members should have a map of their neighborhood and know your neighbor's names, addresses, phone numbers, & vehicles. Additional information, such as working hours, number of children or who's home during the day, would help in defining what is suspicious in YOUR neighborhood. If you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, phone your neighbors so they can keep track of it too.

6. COMMUNICATION

- **BLOCK GROUP EMAIL**
 - ✓ Block captains set up block rosters and initiate a group email. Neighbors can email the entire block if needed.
 - ✓ Inform your block captain of any needed issues regarding safety/security
 - ✓ Block captains communicate with Neighborhood Watch Coordinator who can coordinate with LAPD Senior Lead Officers.
 - ✓ Neighborhood Watch Coordinator can email alert/updates/info to block captains who can get info to entire block
- **BLOCK GROUP TEXT**
 - ✓ Blocks can opt to set up a group text for all neighbors on block for alerts. Consider Band app (www.band.com). Use to alert neighbors to be aware of incidents or suspicious behavior on your block.
- **GET FIT!**
 - ✓ [FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM/TWITTER](#) – follow LAPD for important posts/alerts. DON'T MISS OUT! LAPD posts but does not monitor!!! Make sure you accept notifications, so you get alerts to your phone. Do not report crimes on social media. Call 911/non-emergent # 1-877-ASK-LAPD
- **COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LAPD SENIOR LEAD OFFICER (SLO)**
 - ✓ LAPD Wilshire Division is divided up into 9 areas and each area has a SLO. Your SLO is part of the Community Relations Office and works specifically in your neighborhood. SLO Officers partner with your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, block captains and neighbors to work on areas of concern or in need of more resources/support.
- **COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR 24/7-ARMED RESPONSE/PATROL COMPANY**

- ✓ Notify your patrol company about issues/concerns/photos-videos of suspects. Patrol is a vital part of the Neighborhood Watch when utilized correctly.
- **NEXTDOOR.COM**
 - ✓ Neighborhood website. LAPD posts but does not monitor. Great way to know about your area.
- **RING NEIGHBORHOOD**
 - ✓ Ring products are linked to Ring Neighborhood - posts of activity/videos of suspicious persons in area
- **CRIMEMAPPING.COM**
 - ✓ Be aware of crime in your area
 - ✓ Crimes reported here may be re-categorized by LAPD after investigation of the incident

7. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH LAWN SIGNS:

- ✓ Once your block has hosted a NHW meeting and completed the contents of the NHW Packet – your block will receive 2 lawn signs. These lawn signs are designed by “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” concept by San Fernando Valley Partnership. They have been effective in deterring crime in the neighborhoods that display them along with active Neighborhood Watch Programs.



8. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PARTICIPANT TO DO LIST:

- SECURE YOUR PROPERTY/HARDEN YOUR TARGET – read ‘Secure Your Property and complete checklist
- BE AN ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEMBER
 - ✓ Contact your block captain and provide needed info to receive emails/alerts
 - ✓ Read “How To Be An Active Neighborhood Watch”
 - ✓ Hand out flyer “We Watch We Care We Call”
 - ✓ Walk your block daily and take note of your surroundings. Involve your neighbors and schedule shifts. Remember, vigilant not vigilante. We watch, we report. We leave police work for the police.
 - ✓ Report suspicious behavior
 - ✓ Keep your block roster on your phone and nearby so you can call neighbors fast
 - ✓ Sign up for your blocks TEXT ALERT (consider Band app) and notify others immediately of suspicious activity. Actively COMMUNICATE pertinent info via email with your block fast.
- SIGN UP FOR 24/7 response/Private Patrol
 - ✓ Read “What Everyone Should Know About Patrol”.
 - ✓ Utilize your patrol for your protection. Read “How to Utilize 24/7 Patrol”
- Keep police/patrol/emergency numbers on your phone for reporting suspicious activity or an emergency situation.
- Post your NHW lawn signs once you complete your block NHW meeting.
- Attend the Miracle Mile Neighborhood Watch Meetings**

9. UTILIZE YOUR RESOURCES – WHO IS ON YOUR BLOCK WHEN YOU ARE NOT?

Your family members, gardener, mail carrier, UPS/Fed Ex driver, pizza delivery person, housekeeper, tenant, and neighbor are all eyes on your street . . .

Neighborhood Watch benefits everyone- Share this flyer (next page, print double sided) with neighboring businesses, schools and stores – get the word out that your neighborhood is an active neighborhood watch.

Hello,

Please help us keep our neighborhood safe!

Our neighborhood is participating in a Watch Program. You can help us.

- If there is an emergency call 911
- If you see anything suspicious call 1-877-ASK-LAPD

Put these numbers on your phone along with our phone number.

Please call us as well and let us know what you have seen on our block.

You may see things as you work or visit our street, so please alert us when you see suspicious behavior.

Thank you

Hola,

¡Por favor ayúdenos a mantener nuestro vecindario seguro!

Nuestro vecindario está participando en un programa de vigilancia. Puedes ayudarnos.

- Si hay una emergencia, llame al 911
- Si ve algo sospechoso, llame al 1-877-ASK-LAPD

Pon estos números en tu teléfono y nuestro número de teléfono.

Por favor llámenos también y háganos saber lo que ha visto en nuestro calle.

Puede ver cosas mientras trabaja o visitar nuestra calle, así que avísenos cuando vea un comportamiento sospechoso.

Gracias

MIRACLE MILE
RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



**WE ARE A LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
WILSHIRE DIVISION NEIGHBORHOOD**

**WE WATCH. WE CARE. WE CALL POLICE.
1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273)**

10. RESOURCES

IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KEEP ON YOUR PHONE WHO TO CALL – HOW TO ‘ACTIVATE THE SYSTEM’

POLICE EMERGENCY	911 for emergency, crime in progress, threat to life/limb/property – TEXT 911
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	1-877-ASK-LAPD for non-emergency, report of suspicious behavior
POLICE DISPATCH NON-EMERGENCY	1-213-928-8223 non-emergency, report of suspicious behavior
POLICE CRIME STOPPERS	1-800-222-8477 anonymous tip line
PRIVATE PATROL	(put your patrol company # here)_____
BLOCK CAPTAIN	(put your block captain’s # here)_____
NOTIFY YOUR NEIGHBORS	via block text alert BAND.US app, Nextdoor.com alert, and/or email your block

*Always Call LAPD First
Then Call Your Private Patrol Company*

*See Something - Say Something
When in Doubt - Call it in*

FOR CITY RELATED ISSUES	311 or use app MYLA311 for reporting encampments, graffiti, bulky item pick up and more
HOMELESS OUTREACH PORTAL	LA-HOP.org
LA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	323-957-6843 or app LADOT ladot.lacity.org
ABANDONED CARS	1-800-222-6366
COMMUNITY POLICING	FIND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SENIOR LEAD OFFICER AT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM LAPD WILSHIRE DIVISION COMMUNITY RELATIONS 213 473-0200

Wilshire Division Station:
4861 Venice Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90019
Front Desk (213) 473-0476

Online police reporting:
LAPD had now expanded our online reporting. If you
are the victim of Harassing Phone Calls, Lost
Property, Theft, Theft from Vehicle or Vandalism,
please follow the link:
[http://www.lapdonline.org/home/content_basic_view/
60409](http://www.lapdonline.org/home/content_basic_view/60409)

CONTINUED...MORE 'IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

District Attorney City Prosecutor: Wilshire Division -
Mehrnoosh Zahiri
mehrnoosh.zahiri@lapd.online
213-978-2220

- ***HOMELESS:***

Online outreach request <http://LA-HOP.org>
LA County Hotline 211
24/7 Crisis Line 323-686-0950
Hollywood Wilshire office 323-957-6843

- ***TRAFFIC:***

LAPD West Traffic Bureau:
(213) 473-0222
Captain Gary Walters - 27959@lapd.online

Abandoned vehicles: 1-800-ABANDON/1-800-222-6366

LADOT: Dept of Transportation -
Parking Violations Communication
213-485-4184 or 818-374-4823
<http://ladot.lacity.org>

- ***CITY SERVICES:***

Bulky item pickup/report encampments/graffiti removal/broken streetlight and a lot more
-Dial **311**
-MYLA311 app to request services online
<https://www.lacity.org/myla311>

- ***VICTIMS ASSISTANCE:***

Victims Assistance
<https://www.helpcrimevictims.org/index2.html#/homepage>

Your Community Police Advisory Board meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month - at 7 pm at Wilshire Division.
TO TRACK CRIME IN YOUR AREA: crimemapping.com

"See Something, Say Something"

"When in Doubt, Call"

#1 - Call immediately and report any suspicious activity.

In case of an emergency or a crime in progress - call 911. TEXT 911

In non-emergency situations - call 1-877-ASK-LAPD or dispatch at 213-928-8223.

Staying calm will help you to better respond to questions ask by the dispatcher. Be prepared to give as much information as possible such as your name, address and phone number; location, what is happening, if it is a crime or suspected crime – a description of the suspect, suspect vehicle, direction of travel, and license plate. WHEN IN DOUBT – CALL IT IN!

#2 - Call your Private Patrol after you call LAPD.

Patrol Dispatch #: _____

#3 - Do not confront persons with suspicious behavior

#4 - Report suspicious activity to your Senior Lead Officer Perry Jones 27507@lapd.online and 213-793-0782

#5 - Alert your neighbors - consider BAND app TEXT ALERT or nextdoor.com ALERT to notify neighbors immediately

#6 - Notify your block captain by calling/text/email. BLOCK CAPTAIN: _____

Having access to important contact numbers is part of Neighborhood Watch. See below for numbers to keep on your cell phone.

SEE "IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & RESOURCES"

DISCLAIMER:

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Miracle Mile Neighborhood Watch (MMNHW) accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any material contained in this Neighborhood Watch Packet. Additionally, MMNHW disclaims all liability to any person in respect of anything, and of the consequences of anything, done or omitted to be done by any such person in reliance, whether wholly or partially, upon any information presented in this packet.

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Liability Disclaimer for Crime Prevention Strategies:

I have attempted to accurately share crime safety and security strategies. However, I make no promises. You are responsible for your own safety by consulting with your local law enforcement agency.

The role of neighborhood watch participants is not to supersede the role of law enforcement.