

How to make your neighborhood safer....

1. **Apply the broken window theory to your street/neighborhood.** If anything looks inviting to a criminal element, like an abandoned property, they will gravitate to that area. So as a neighborhood, make sure you all keep an eye out for “broken windows.” Pick up trash. Keep your yard tidy. Remove eye sores. Drive around the block. Know what belongs and what doesn’t. Work together as neighbors to keep your street well kept. A well-kept neighborhood will provide fewer places for suspicious persons to be attracted to.
2. **Know your neighbors!** This cannot be emphasized enough. Talk to them. Know their cars. Know their habits/routines. Plan seasonal get togethers. If new neighbors move in, welcome them. Walk around the block. Say hi. The best way to get to know your neighbors is to spend time with them.
3. **Use Social Media.** This is one of the best ways to stay in touch with your neighbors. To let them know if something out of the ordinary is happening in the neighborhood. To let them know when you are out of town. To ask questions. To plan get togethers. To let them know your trash pickup has been delayed. We use a PRIVATE/CLOSED Facebook page to talk to each other. Make sure it is a closed/private page, you don’t want to broadcast to the world you are not home. Use the City’s App: City Hall. It allows you to submit a message directly to the city about high grass, litter, abandoned cars, pot holes, and a whole host of other services needed to keep the neighborhood in good working order.
4. **Call in suspicious activity.** Report any suspicious activity, such as cars out of place, people walking randomly down your street taking pictures of your houses, drug deals to the Non-Emergency number of District 3 (513-765-1212) While an officer may not respond immediately, they have made note of it in their logs, which in turn will alert the police to any “hot spot areas.” If your neighborhood is a hot spot, then you will see more police patrols, which in turn deters the criminal element.
5. **Distribute phone list that contains local emergency numbers.** Create a phone tree of neighbors, as a back up to your social media information. Create an email collection. Distribute the numbers/emails so the tree can begin to flourish.
6. **Start a Block Watch.** Have a neighborhood meeting. Get people on board. Contact your local police liaison, have he/she come to your meeting to speak to how a block watch works and how to set one up. Appoint a block watch captain. Take a safety walk through your neighborhood with your local police liaison. Have the block watch captain put up block watch signs. Have each house put up a block watch window cling. That sends a very heavy message to any suspect characters that the whole neighborhood is watching. It also gives the neighborhood kids a place to go if they are in need of help.
7. **Make YOUR home safer.** Keep the light on. The more lights around your property the less a potential criminal will want to bother the house. Get an alarm. Get a dog – dogs are the biggest deterrent of crime. Trim back any bushes or trees that create hiding areas along your house where potential criminals can lurk. LOCK your house, your car, your garage. Anything with easy access is an invitation to a criminal.

8. **Get Involved!** Go to local meetings. Solicit local shops. Walk your neighborhoods. Help with clean ups. Attend local events. Stop by the library. Attend a local church. The more neighbors are working together as a form of community, the less the criminals want to hang around.

In the end, a safer community is up to YOU and YOUR neighbors. The local police can only do so much. Creating a “neighborhood,” where a sense of community is felt, is very much appreciated by the local police, and deters crime.

Communicate. Get Involved. Be Aware.

