



A Checklist for Starting an Alert Neighbors / Neighborhood Watch Program

YOU WILL NEED:

- A person or a group committed to starting an Alert Neighbors Program.
- A list of issues initially needing to be addressed.
- A means of communication with the residents - e-mail, fliers, telephone trees, nextdoor.com, and/or Facebook.
- Publicity for the initial Alert Neighbors meeting.
- A meeting agenda to keep things moving and on track.
- A place to meet – resident’s house or apartment, community center, school or library.
- A map of the community with space for names, addresses, and phone numbers.

TO ADD EXCITEMENT:

- Mix business with pleasure – allow attendees time to socialize.
- Seek out neighborhood go-getters – civic leaders and elected officials as mentors.
- Work with existing organizations or housing authorities.
- Provide speakers on topics of community interest.
- Link crime prevention into activities, child protection, and recreation activities for young people.
- Start a neighborhood newsletter.
- Arrange for McGruff to make an appearance at a meeting or block party.

TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

- The police and sheriff’s office endorsement is critical to Alert Neighbors credibility. These agencies are the major sources of information on local crime patterns and crime prevention education.
- Local businesses and organizations can offer meeting places.
- Libraries can provide research materials and meeting space.
- Places of worship can provide meeting space.