

Dear Resident,

The White Rock RCMP Community Policing Program would like to invite you to join the Block Watch Program in an effort to reduce crime and increase the communication between neighbourhoods and your local Police Detachment.

#### **How does Block Watch work?**

Block Watch is a free community-based program of neighbours helping neighbours administered by your local police. Residents on a street or in a complex form a communication chain, aided by a block map of names, telephone numbers, and addresses. They make a commitment to watch out for each other's homes, and report suspicious activities to the police and to each other. They also keep each other informed about neighbourhood occurrences, burglary, thefts, and other crimes or problems occurring on their street.

#### **What does Block Watch provide?**

- Training for Captains and Co-Captains
- Quarterly Crime Statistics and Safety tips
- Block Watch window stickers and Block Watch street signs
- Education on how to properly recognize and report crime and suspicious activity to the police
- In most incidents, a general reduction of crime
- Continued Police partnership
- A greater sense of safety among residents

#### **In addition we can provide:**

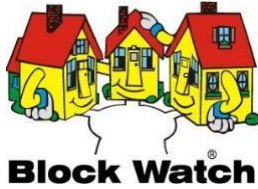
- The use of an engraving pen to mark your valuables
- A Crime Prevention Staff Member and/or Constable to attend your first meeting and/or Block Watch event.

#### **How can I get involved?**

Two people from your condominium complex or street need to volunteer to become the Block Captain and Co-Captain. They contact the Victim Services and Crime Prevention Coordinator, Romy Devries at 778-545-4778 or [romy.devries@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:romy.devries@rcmp-grc.gc.ca) and must complete an application form and a Police Information Check (no charge). A one hour training session will then be provided; which will give them the tools necessary to canvass their block and implement their first Block Watch meeting.

#### **Responsibilities of the Block Watch Captain, & Co-Captain:**

- Canvass neighbours to explain the program and encourage participation
- Maintain an accurate list and map of all participants; must provide an updated copy to your local police/block watch office annually
- Ensure that yearly neighbourhood meetings are held
- Act as a liaison between the Police detachment and Block Watch participants by providing important crime information to participants when required
- Set a good example by initiating home security and target hardening measure in his/her own home
- Distribute the Block Watch newsletter (preferably via email)
- Welcome the new residents by explaining the Block Watch program and encouraging participation



#### **Responsibilities of the Block Watch participant:**

- Watch out for their neighbours and neighbours property
- Notify Police of any suspicious activity or crime in progress
- Report if they have been a victim of crime
- Notify their Block Captain if they have been a victim of a break and enter or other criminal/suspicious activity
- Update security and hardware in their homes
- Mark all valuables with their drives license
- After participants have marked and catalogued their property they will be given Block Watch decals by the Captain
- Attend yearly Block Watch meetings in their neighbourhood

#### **What do Block Watch members look for – Suspicious Activity!**

- Someone screaming or shouting for help
- Sounds of breaking glass or shattering wood
- Unusual noises
- Beam from flashlights or light in neighbours home
- People going from door to door
- Someone looking into windows of parked vehicles
- People loitering around the neighbourhood
- A stranger in the back yard
- Property being taken out of homes or businesses when no one is at home or the business is closed
- Property being carried by people on foot
- A door or window left ajar; possibly forced
- Unfamiliar vehicles parked at your neighbours residence
- Vehicles slowly cruising down your street
- Someone being forced into a vehicle
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk with a child
- Abandoned car
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Remember that no call is too small; if you see a situation that doesn't sit right and is what you would deem suspicious, call the Police. The more details you get the better; note any description of a person you find suspicious. For example: Ethnicity, male or female, age, height, weight, build, clothing, tattoos or markings, and anything being carried; if they are on foot or in a vehicle try to get their direction of travel. If it is a vehicle you are reporting do your best to obtain the make, model, color, license plate, driver description (if possible), and direction of travel. Don't make the assumption someone else has called the Police already. If criminal activity has occurred let your Block Watch Captain and neighbours know, but call the Police FIRST.