

Neighbors Take Charge In Community Problem Solving

By: Tuere Sala

One of the most important parts of a Community Liaison Attorney is helping neighbors deal with chronic nuisance situations. These situations occur when a property owner's use of property unreasonably limits the surrounding neighborhood's ability to utilize and enjoy their property. These situations often become chronic problems and if not checked, can easily go on for several years. Left unresolved, such situations likely result in offending property owner becoming more and more isolated from the neighborhood, the problem becomes more and more entrenched within the neighborhood and the surrounding the neighbors feeling increasingly frustrated and victimized. However, there are ways to successfully address chronic nuisance situations.

This article outlines two SCENARIOS

Scenario #1: Residents in a Southwest Seattle neighborhood lived next to a very difficult rental property. Following the relocation of the property owners out of state, the neighbors were plagued with excessive vehicle traffic all hours of the day and night due to suspected drug activity, loud music from auto speakers, loud verbal altercations, random discarding of trash and other waste, (including household appliances and garbage piled high for weeks at a time) and late night loud parties with severely intoxicated people. These problems affected residents within a two-block radius and like our residents in Scenario #1, they attempted communications with the now absentee landowners to correct the situation, but nothing changed.

The residents began working with their Community Police Team officers, Crime Prevention Coordinators and various other City agencies to address varied problems. They documented the problems and prepared themselves to take all needed legal steps. A meeting was then set up between the residents, absentee landowners and was facilitated by Community Police Team Officer, the Precinct Liaison City Attorney and the Crime Prevention Coordinator. Again, as with scenario #1, discussion centered around the landowner's responsibility to the community, the criminal and civil penalties the landowner was risking by not addressing the problems and the assistance the residents could provide in protecting the landowner's property in their absence.

At the conclusion of the meeting, an agreement was reached regarding specific steps the landowners would take to address the neighborhood concerns, including evicting the problem tenants. The landowners, while under no obligation to do so, also agreed to hire a local management company and agreed to leave the house vacant for 60 days to allow the possible drug traffic to dissipate.

Scenario #2: Approximately two years ago a nightclub opened next to a residence whose owner lived there for more than 25 years. The resident's bedroom faces a side of the nightclub building comprised of floor-to-ceiling windows and two entry/exit doors.

As the club grew in popularity, the residents experienced excessive loud noises due to patron activities and amplified music. This made it impossible for him to sleep during the clubs business hours 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM Thursday through Sunday. Throughout

the following year and a half the resident spoke to the club owners about the noise problem but they were either non-responsive or made numerous promises (not kept) to address the problem.

He then reached out to SPD, DPD and other City agencies for assistance. A noise meter, obtained from DPD, aided in collecting the data reflecting levels of the noise problem over a two-month period, and tape recordings supported this data. Shortly thereafter, the resident, club owners, Community Police Team Officer and Precinct Liaison Attorney met to discuss the club's responsibility to the neighbors and criminal and civil penalties the club's owner risked by not addressing the noise problem.

At the conclusion of the meeting an agreement was reached regarding specific physical changes the club owners would make to reduce sound and noise levels, including closing windows and redirecting music amplification. Although given three weeks to complete the changes, the owners completed their work in two weeks.

The way these scenarios were resolved is impressive, and the relatively quick and amicable results are testament to how neighbors and property owners worked together as community members rather than adversaries. By utilizing the following guidelines, perhaps people in your community may come together to resolve similar nuisance situations and on-going problems:

- 1) Residents remained diligent in their resolve to better their community.
- 2) Residents kept documentation regarding the extent of the problems and their attempts to resolve the situation.
- 3) Residents worked with various city departments to resolve the nuisance situation.
- 4) Residents communicated to the offending property owner in writing and met face-to-face with the offending property owners at the SW Precinct.
- 5) The meeting was respectful, open and honest.
- 6) The residents and the offending property owners were willing to listen to the concerns and interests of the other side.
- 7) The City Attorney's Office and Seattle Police Department were clear and straight forward about the legal penalties, both civil and criminal, faced by the offending property owners.
- 8) Offending property owners took responsibility for correcting the problems caused by the misuse of their property.
- 9) Residents provided the offending property owner time to correct the problems.
- 10) Offending property owners took effective steps to address the problems.

Things You Need On Your Nuisance House Log.

1. At the top of the page “Activity Log for the Problem House at List the Address”
2. Date/Time
3. Describe what you see and hear on your log related to the Problem House.
 - Explain what the problem is.
 - Detail the suspicious activity.
 - Description of the people involved.
 - Note the vehicles make, model, color & license plate number.
4. When you call 911 be sure to ask for the “Event Number” and note it on your log.
5. If the police make a report, then ask the Police Officer for an “Incident Number” and note it on your log.
6. Make note of the action you and others take in response to the logged entry.
7. Make note of your reaction emotionally to the situation you are logging and how you feel such as angry, fear and frustration. Note the change, impact and harm caused in your life due to the situation you are logging. Please review “Nuisance examples” and “Examples of changes in lifestyle created by nuisances” below.

WHAT IS A NUISANCE?

- A nuisance is a persistent and unreasonable use of land that prevents others from having normal use and enjoyment of their property or affects their health, safety or comfort.
- A nuisance must be location specific (directly tied to the property in question).
- A nuisance can result in fear, anxiety, or a change in lifestyle of those affected by it.

Nuisance examples:

- Noise: horns, tires squealing, yelling, music, gunshots
- Broken vehicle windows, car prowls, car thefts
- Syringes in the neighborhood, garbage
- Outdoor junk storage, garbage, broken glass, junk cars
- Prostitution
- Increased/abnormal volumes of foot/vehicle traffic to/from the nuisance property, loitering
- Decreased property values due to crime or junk
- Pedestrian intimidation
- Unsecured abandoned houses
- Intimidation/disruptive behavior

Examples of changes in lifestyle created by nuisances:

- Neighbors feel they should not allow their children to play in a yard.
- Residents’ cars experience repeated incidents of vandalism, theft, etc.
- Friends and/or relatives are afraid of visiting
- Neighbors feel their animals are not safe in the yard, due to a menacing animal or incidents of harassment or torture of animals
- Neighbors are afraid of walking in the neighborhood after an assault, harassment or threat
- Neighbors suffer a loss of sleep because of noise and disturbances
- Residents find their outdoor spaces, gardens and yards are unusable because of specific problems associated with the nuisance house
- Lowered property values

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER
WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO BRING A SMALL CLAIM ACTION**

- 1) How long have you lived in your house?
- 2) Do you own or rent your house?
- 3) Description of persons living in your house. (gender, age and relation to you)
- 4) What is the address of problem property?
- 5) Who is the landowner?
- 6) Where do you live in relation to the problem property?
- 7) List, generally, the nature of every problem with the property? (i.e. excessive noise, late night parties, excessive traffic, drug paraphernalia, etc.)
- 8) Were the problems listed in question (7) present when you initially rented or bought your house?
 - a) If yes, state why you rented or bought the house anyway.
 - b) If no, how long after you moved in did the problem(s) began.
- 9) Give detailed examples of each problem listed in question (7) above. For each example please state:
 - a) The problem
 - b) What happens (give as much detail as possible)
 - c) When it happens (for repetitive problems state how often)
 - d) How you feel when the problem happens
 - e) What, if anything, you did as the problem was occurring, i.e. called 911, Department of Planning and Development, CPT officer, shouted at neighbor, called a friend, left the house, etc.
- 10) List any and all agencies and/or Seattle city departments you have contacted to address the problems listed in question (7) and the result of that contact.
- 11) Have you contacted the landowner regarding the problems listed in question (7)?
 - a) If no, explain why.
 - b) If yes, give detailed description of the contact including how you contacted the landowner, what was said and result of that contact.
- 12) Give a detailed description of the effect the problems listed in question (7) has had on you and your life. Include things such as changes in life style, changes in daily/evening routines, changes in health, i.e. depression, loss of sleep, loss of appetite, etc., changes in general welfare, i.e. employment difficulties, relationship with friends, etc. and why you believe it is related to problem property.
- 13) Give a detailed description of how the problem(s) listed in question (7) has affected you financially. Include any medical bills, loss of time at work, cost to repair, cost for protection, etc.

REPORTING DRUG ACTIVITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Signs of Drug Activity

Like all major cities, Seattle faces a growing battle against drugs. The police cannot solve this problem alone. Success requires community involvement. It is often hard to be certain that what you are seeing involves drugs, but some patterns may indicate drug activity:

An unusually large amount of traffic coming to a building via cars, taxis, or walking and often at strange hours is in most cases drug dealing. Visitors may sometimes pound on doors or shout to be let in. This traffic is usually quick, with people staying only a short time. Sometimes they do not go in at all; instead, someone comes out to meet them.

- Finding drugs or drug paraphernalia (syringes, pipes, etc.) in the area.
- Repeated, observable exchanges of items, especially where money is visible.
- Offers to sell you drugs, or conversation about drugs that you overhear.
- Noxious odors from or around the building, such as "musty" smells.
- Buildings where extreme security measures seem to be being taken.
- Buildings where no owner or primary renter is apparent, and no home activities, yard work, painting, or maintenance, etc., seems to be going on.

Many communities have unpopular resident. It is important to distinguish between obnoxious or peculiar behavior and drug activity. Racial or ethnic background, economic level, or lifestyle choices do not mean the person is a drug dealer.

How to Report Drug Activity:

Do not assume the police already know, or that a neighbor will call. Do not assume one report is all that is needed. If the activity keeps occurring, keep reporting it. If the pattern changes, report that change. All neighbors affected by the drug activity are encouraged to report.

Drug Activity in Progress:

For drug activity that is in progress or needs an immediate police response, call 9-1-1. If a patrol car is available, an officer will respond. If you would like to speak with the officer, then tell the 9-1-1 operator.

On-going Drug Activity:

On-going drug activity, which police need to be aware of, but does not require immediate response, can be reported by calling one of the following locations and asking to file a Narcotics Activity Report (NARS)

Contacts to report Drug Activity
Narcotics Section (206) 684-5797
(8:00 am - 4:00 pm)

Non-emergency 9-1-1 (206) 625-5011

Community Police Team:

- East Precinct (206) 684-4370
- North Precinct (206) 684-0851
- South Precinct (206) 386-9180
- **Southwest Precinct (206) 615-1976**
- West Precinct (206) 684-8996

You can *report drug activity anonymously*, but it is more helpful if you give your name and phone number in case additional information is needed.

You can ask that your name not be released to anyone.

WHAT THE POLICE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

- What makes you think narcotics are being sold?
- Which drugs are involved? Have you found any drug paraphernalia?
- How long has the activity gone on?
- Have you reported the activity before? If so, when?
- What is the address where the drug activity is occurring (including the apartment number), or the closest intersection?
- What type of building is it (single family home, business, apartment)?
- Where on the property is the drug activity-taking place (e.g., at the front door, out the back window, in the alley, etc.)?
- Do you know where the drugs are kept?
- What is the pattern of activity? (Times of day and days of the week when it is the heaviest? Number of people in and out at a given hour? Do cars drive up to the house, or do people park and walk up? Do they arrive in taxis? From which direction do they come, and how do they leave?) Keeping a written log of your observations, including date and time, can help identify patterns.
- Have there been any other crimes associated with the operation (e.g., threats or assaults on neighbors, increased burglaries, etc.)?
- Do you know the name and address of the property owner?
- Do you know the name of the persons suspected of dealing?
- What do the suspected dealer(s) look like (Sex, age, race, height, weight, build, eye and hair color, hair style, facial hair, complexion, eyewear, distinctive clothing.) Be as specific as possible with your description (s).
- What type of car(s) do the suspected dealer(s) drive? (Make, model, year, style – e.g., 2-door, license number, license state, exterior color, interior color, distinctive features.)
- What do the “customers” look like? (Typical sex, age, race, clothing style. A detailed description of each buyer isn’t necessary, but an overview would be useful.)
- What are the license numbers of customers' cars? License numbers alone won't result in an arrest or probable cause for a search warrant, but can be useful in an investigation.
- How many people live in the house? Are there any children? How old?
- Any dogs? What kind? How many?
- Any bars or other types of reinforcements on house, windows and doors? What kind? Where: Any alarm or security systems? What kind?
- Have you seen any weapons? What kind? How many?

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU MAKE A REPORT?

Officer Response

If a patrol car is free when you report drug activity, an officer will respond. However, drug transactions seldom involve any danger to either participants or bystanders, and crimes that endanger someone must have first priority. Also, drug deals are completed quickly, and are often over before an officer can arrive.

Not Sufficient for an Arrest

Citizen reports cannot usually be the primary cause for a drug arrest. Unless you have special training or experience with drugs or drug users, the courts will say an arrest based only on your testimony is not justified. Since few citizens can meet the strict legal standards, officers who do have the training and experience must make their own observations and collect evidence the courts will accept

Arrests cannot be made just because someone says they saw a drug deal take place. Because when they are investigated a significant number of such complaints are found to be invalid. This can happen when neighbors misinterpret what they see. Sometimes it happens because the drug complaint is revenge for other neighborhood problems. Both your rights and those of other people have to be protected in the process of stopping drug trafficking.

Provides Cause for Investigation

Your reports are still very important, even though they cannot be used as the direct cause for an arrest. They let police know there is a problem, and they provide a reason for police to undertake

an investigation of a person or location. Under the laws of our land, police cannot stop or investigate people without reasonable suspicion.

The Narcotics Section screens all Narcotics Activity Reports. Most are sent to the appropriate Precinct for review and/or action. The investigation may include drug buys made by undercover officers or reliable police informants. These buys are the best evidence, and must be made under carefully controlled conditions. During the period of investigation you may not see any evidence of police activity.

Search Warrants/Abatement

If sufficient cause can be confirmed, a request is made to a judge for a search warrant for the building. Residents who possess drugs will be arrested. The court may release them on bail, however, they may return to the neighborhood while they await trial. Dealers often move elsewhere, or stop dealing after an arrest

When the warrant is served, a file is started under the abatement law, which was passed in 1988. "Abatement" means the city asks the court to declare the property a public nuisance and let the city board it up for up to a year. If drug activity continues after the owner has been warned, abatement proceedings can be started. Abatement is not a fast process, however, and may require written neighborhood testimony on the impact of the drug operation on the neighborhood in order to succeed.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD NEIGHBORS DO?

Contact Your Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator:

Benjamin Kinlow at 684-7724 at Southwest Precinct. He can provide additional valuable, information and help the neighborhood develop procedures and strategies to deal with the drug problem. He can also be a liaison for you with various units of the Seattle police Department that may be involved in investigating the problem.

Organize a Block Watch.

If you do not have a Block Watch, your Precinct's Crime Prevention Coordinator can help you set one up. A Block Watch can inform neighbors who may not be aware of the drug activity and encourage them to observe and report it as well as you.

A Block Watch can help deter future drug dealing in your neighborhood, and also help prevent other types of crimes such as burglary, that often accompany drug activity.

Keep Your Block Watch Active.

When new neighbors move in, let them know you are a Block Watch block and invite them to join. This warns anyone moving into your neighborhood that you are alert and will report criminal activity.

Seattle Police Department, Southwest Precinct, 2300 S.W. Webster, Seattle, WA 98106

Please review the information on our website at www.seattle.gov/police/prevention



SOUTHWEST PRECINCT PUBLIC SAFETY NUMBERS

Police Department Resource Numbers

Call **9-1-1** (24 hours) for: **Emergency**

- ❑ All medical, fire and police emergencies, and anytime you believe there is a need to send police, fire or medical personnel to the scene.

Call **625-5011** (24 hours) for: **Non Emergency**

- ❑ Any incident which you believe should be reported to the Police Department but does not require an immediate dispatched of an officer to the scene.

Clerk at the Southwest Precinct ask for Watch Commander (24 hrs.) at **733-9800:**

- ❑ If you have an administrative or procedural question.
- ❑ If you have a comment regarding an officer's actions, or a "Thank you."
- ❑ The Southwest Precinct address is **2300 SW Webster St., 98106**

Community Policing Team at **615-1976:**

If you have a chronic, on-going problem that has not been resolved by calling 9-1-1

- ❑ Sgt Jeffrey Durden, 233-5067, jeffrey.durden@seattle.gov

Narcotics/Vice for:

- ❑ On-going suspected drug activity **684-5797** (8:00 am to 4:00 pm)
- ❑ On-going suspected gambling/prostitution **684-8660** (9:00 am to midnight)

Check and Forgery Unit at **684-8981** (8:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Information on criteria for accepting checks and prosecution, and follow-up on cases.

Crime Prevention Coordinator at (8:00 am to 4:00 pm)

- ❑ Benjamin Kinlow, 684-7724, benjamin.kinlow@seattle.gov
 1. Information on Block Watch, residential security, crime prevention and public safety concerns, and free home security surveys.
 2. Information on business, commercial crime prevention and security consultations.
 3. **Disaster Preparedness:** You and your neighbors will learn how to prepare for Disaster and learn how to reduce the physical harm & property lost.

Emergency Management Office working to protect Neighborhood and Citywide infrastructure in times of Disaster Preparedness **233-5076**

Parking Enforcement at **625-5011** (24 hours)

- ❑ Abandoned vehicles on public streets. Vehicles parked on planting strips.
- ❑ On going parking violations and problems.

Harbor Patrol (24 hrs.) at **684-4071**

- ❑ To report any emergency or crime occurring along the ship canal & water ways.

Non-Police Public Safety Numbers

Department of Planning & Development at 684-7899

- ❑ Structures that pose a danger to public safety.
- ❑ Illegal littering, storage, weeds, parking, etc. on private property

Animal Control at 386-7387

- ❑ Injured or dangerous animals and lost pets.
- ❑ Stray animals, animal cruelty.

Fire Department for:

- ❑ Suspected arson activity **386-1350**
- ❑ Fire education and prevention **386-1450**
- ❑ **Arson Hotline:** **1-800-552-7766**

Parks Department for: 684-7088 or 915-4934 (noon to 11:00 pm)

- ❑ Security in the parks **467-3005 (11:00 pm to noon)**
- ❑ Park maintenance **684-7263**

Seattle Transportation Department for:

- ❑ Traffic and speeding concerns **684-7570**

Seattle Public Utilities for:

- ❑ Graffiti removal **684-PKUP (7587)**

Seattle City Light for: 615-0600

- ❑ Additional street lights and commercial
- ❑ Residential floodlight rental
- ❑ Street light repair

Neighborhood Service Centers (NSC) for:

General information regarding city services and resources:

- ❑ **Greater Duwamish** 2821 Beacon Ave. S **233-2044***
- ❑ **West Seattle** 4205 SW Alaska St **684-7495***
- ❑ **Delridge** 5405 Delridge Way SW **684-7417***

Washington Poison Center: 526-2121

Child Protective Services (DSHS): 721-4115

Seattle Public Schools Security: 252-0707 (24 hours)

· *regular city hours 8:00 am to 5:00 pm*

Seattle Police Department, Southwest Precinct

CRIME PREVENTION COORDINATOR, 684-7724

Seattle Police Department's website, www.seattle.gov/police/prevention



ALERT!

Ideas For Effective Action To Prevent These Crimes

☐ Robbery, ☐ Burglary, ☐ Car Prowl or ☐ Car Theft On Your Block

Car Prowl Prevention

When do these crimes occur?

- ☐ Most car prowls take place during the hours of darkness when you are more likely to be home asleep. They can and do take place during the daytime too.
- ☐ An experienced Car Prowler or Thief can gain access to your car in virtually seconds.
- ☐ The damage done to locks and windows can be very expensive to repair and cause great inconvenience.

Clean it out!

- ☐ Remove keys and all items from your vehicle such as clothing, purses, wallets, computers or cellular phones from your car. These items only serve to make your vehicle a more attractive target for thieves.
- ☐ When shopping place items in trunk before leaving to shop elsewhere.

Lock it Up!

- ☐ Keep your windows rolled up and your doors locked whenever you leave your vehicle. If you have a security system on your vehicle, make sure it is operating properly.

Use the Garage

- ☐ The safest place for your vehicle is in the garage. If you have a garage, keep your vehicle parked and locked inside the garage. Remember to close and lock the garage doors.

Park it Wisely

- ☐ If you do not have a garage, park your vehicle in your driveway or in a place where you can easily see it. Parking in a well-lit place can make it easier for you to see at night. Motion sensor lighting will aid in detecting car prowlers at night.

Burglary Prevention

Most Burglaries occur during daytime and a second burglary often takes place in the next few days or weeks within one block of the previous burglary.

Make sure your trusted neighbors watch your home in your absence.

Immediately report anything suspicious to 911, such as would be prowlers in a neighbor's yard, loitering, going door-to-door, the sound of breaking glass, or any appearance of a suspected break-in.

SUGGESTED SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS:

Now is the time to check your home security and make the necessary improvements.

1. Installation of double cylinder deadbolts (keyed on the inside and outside) on all doors that have glass in or adjacent to them. To provide fire exit, leave this type of lock unlocked while at home and use a manual latch on these doors for security.
2. Reinforcement of the doorframe by replacing the screws in the strike plates and one screw per hinge with 3-inch wood screws.
3. Tips to make your home look and sound occupied: use timers on inside lamps, use motion sensors or keep front and back porch lights on all night and place a radio near door/window tuned to a talk show.
4. Increase visibility by trimming back overgrown shrubbery that conceals your ground level and basement windows. Improve security by adding extra locking devices to basement doors and windows.

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ALERT!

Ideas For Effective Action To Prevent These Crimes

☐ Robbery, ☐ Burglary, ☐ Car Prowl or ☐ Car Theft On Your Block

1. Walk Your Block Daily

- ☐ Walk your block two times a day and encourage everyone to participate.
- ☐ Walk with another person.
- ☐ If you walk with your dog, clean up after it.

2. Organize A Block Watch For Your Block

- ☐ Encourage people to report suspicious activities to 911 and keep a log.
- ☐ Keep your neighbors informed of problems.
- ☐ Set up a phone tree, email or newsletter to get out information.
- ☐ Contact Block Captains on adjacent blocks to find common problems, if unorganized encourage residents to start a Block Watch.

3. Get Out And Go Door To Door

- ☐ Take important information to your neighbors. Most people want to know what crimes are occurring and how to report crime anonymously and what details to report to the police. Your Crime Prevention Coordinator can help.
- ☐ Schedule a time for you and a neighbor to go door-to-door together to give information on crime and how to prevent it and/or organizing a Block Watch meeting.

4. Encourage Neighbors To Keep A "Log"

- ☐ Keep records of crime problems, by dates and times, as well as descriptions of the people and cars involved. (Especially for suspected drug houses.)
- ☐ Keep records of who you report these incidents to, as well as the date, time and what you talked about.

5. Problems On A Landlord's Property

- ☐ Ask landlords to sign a "Trespass Contract" so police can arrest trespassers.
- ☐ Inform the landlord in writing of illegal or suspicious activities. (Help the landlord find other tenants.)

6. Do A "Block Audit" Of Problems

- ☐ List streetlights out, vacant lots, trashy alleys, damaged street signs, etc.
- ☐ Invite the appropriate City Departments to your meeting and request help.
- ☐ Have various Departments report on their progress at another community meeting.
- ☐ Build a relationship with them!

7. Get To Know Agencies And Groups That Can Help Resolve Your Problems

- ☐ Work with neighbors to resolve mutual problems.
- ☐ This can include City Departments, churches, community centers, school principals, business managers/owners and others working to improve things.

8. Do A Block Clean-Up & Graffiti Removal

- ☐ Contact Seattle Public Utility For Information: 684-8565 or 386-4008 or www.seattle.gov/util.

9. Contact Crime Prevention Coordinator: Benjamin Kinlow, 684-7724

email: benjamin.kinlow@seattle.gov

- ☐ Call the Crime Prevention Coordinator and set up a Block Watch meeting date and time for your block.
- ☐ Talk about ongoing crime problems and work to resolve the crime on your block.
- ☐ Set up a "Block Tour", so everyone understands the problems on your block.
- ☐ Seattle's **Night Out** Against Crime, Tuesday, August 5, 2007, 6:00-10:00 PM

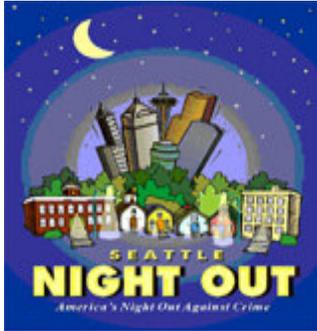
10. Contact Your Community Police Team CPT Officer:

- ☐ If you have a chronic, on-going problem that has not been resolved by calling 9-1-1. **Call 615-1976 to get f your CPT Officer's name, telephone and email address**
- ☐ or email Sgt. Jeffrey Durden at jeffrey.durden@seattle.gov with a detail overview of your problem.

Seattle Police Department, Southwest Precinct, 2300 S.W. Webster, Seattle, WA 98106

Please review the information on our website at www.seattle.gov/police/prevention

Tuesday, August 5th is Night Out 2008!



How to Register

The Registration Form needs to be filled out and returned before **July 28, 2008**. Registered blocks will be granted their street closure requests. Information on registered blocks is shared with the Fire Department so they are aware of streets that will be closed. Check online for more information, after June 1, 2008 at www.seattle.gov/police/nightout

Ideas for Night Out block events:

Neighborhood Public Safety:

Discuss with your neighbors ways to improve your Block Watch to include Neighborhood Public Safety. Decide who will call the Crime Prevention Coordinator in your area to set up the initial meeting.

Lawn Party:

Keeping it simple keeps busy block smiling. Some of the best Night Out Celebrations start with neighbors pulling up lawn chairs in the yard or on the planting strips to visit and bring each other up to date.

Have a Pet Show:

For blocks with a dog or cat in every house, get to know your neighbors through the pets. You can create ribbons for various categories.

Host a Potluck or a Barbecue:

Another easy event to organize. Some blocks agree that residents on one side of the street will bring main dishes while the other side brings salads and desserts. The following year you can switch.

Make some Music:

Haul out your favorite music or tap into the musical talents on the block.

Play some games:

Have your block bring out the card tables, chairs, deck of cards or their favorite board games.

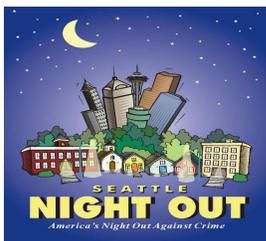
Have an Ice Cream Sundae Party:

Each home on the block contributes ice cream, topping, whipped cream and nuts.

Have a Parade:

Let the kids dress up and have a special "Night Out" parade.

**NIGHT OUT
2008**



**Tuesday
August 5th**

Here's How to Register By Mail & Fax

1. Complete this form and mail or fax it in. Registrations need to be sent by July 28
2. To close off your street and register your block for your "NIGHT OUT" activities, complete the following information. Please help us by being as precise as possible:

Just fill out all requested information and mail it in!

PLEASE REGISTER OUR BLOCK AS A NIGHT OUT PARTICIPANT:

Name of contact person for our group: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Work #: _____ Census Tract _____

E-mail: _____

What type of activities do you plan for your "NIGHT OUT activities? _____

Time activities will begin and end: _____

Location on block where NIGHT OUT activities will occur: _____

If members of the media wish "NIGHT OUT contacts, may we give them your name and phone number? Yes _____ No _____

Are you planning on closing your street for NIGHT OUT? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, Street Name and Hundred Block to be closed: _____

From: _____ (cross street)

To: _____ (cross street)

(Please remember, arterials and intersections **cannot** be closed)

If you want to fax in your registration instead of mailing it, here are the fax numbers for the Police Department's Southwest Precinct: 733-9324

*For More Information: Benjamin Kinlow, Crime Prevention Coordinator,
(206) 684-7724, benjamin.kinlow@seattle.gov.*

Seattle Police Department Southwest Precinct, 2300 SW Webster St., Seattle, WA 98106

TIRED OF DRUG HOUSES

and other nuisance, problem houses in your Neighborhood?

Are any of the following Nuisances occurring in your neighborhood?

- ❑ Abandoned house or business left unsecured
- ❑ High volumes of foot/vehicle traffic to/from a nuisance property
- ❑ Intimidation/disruptive behavior such as blocking the street with their vehicle to talk to someone
- ❑ Junk storage in yard, garbage, broken glass, junk cars
- ❑ Litter, garbage and syringes discarded in the neighborhood
- ❑ Noise from horns, tires squealing, loud music from vehicles and/or from house, loud conversations late at night, yelling arguments, fighting and gunshots
- ❑ Non-stop auto repair
- ❑ Party house, a hangout for lots of people

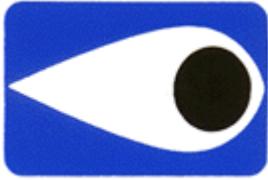
LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP GET RID OF DRUG AND OTHER NUISANCE HOUSES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Drug/Nuisance problem houses can adversely affect the quality of life in your neighborhood. Learn a simple plan and an effective tool to protect your quality of life and increase the safety for your BLOCK. Call me and I will help you and your neighbors organize a Block Watch to get rid of the Nuisance off your block and make it a better place to live.

For More Information:

*Benjamin Kinlow, Crime Prevention Coordinator, (206) 684-7724
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Web-page: www.seattle.gov/police*



Block Watch

Block Watch is a national program that is based on the principle that neighbors working together are the first and best line of defense against crime.

The Seattle Police Block Watch Program began in 1972, and has seen significant involvement and success. Just seven years after the program began; the United States Department of Justice's National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice recognized it as an "Exemplary Project". Roughly 30% of Seattle neighborhoods are currently involved in Block Watch, compared to a national average of 8-11%.

Block Watch is simple to begin, and can improve the security of your neighborhood while increasing your sense of community.

Neighborhood responsibilities

- ❑ Report all emergencies or suspicious activities to 9-1-1 immediately.
- ❑ Call your Block Captain after you have reported to 9-1-1 when you: Have been burglarized, or Notice any suspicious activity.
- ❑ Welcome new neighbors and invite them to join the block watch.
- ❑ Periodically look out the window and respond to any suspicious activity, strangers or noises by calling 9-1-1.
- ❑ Take your turn as block captain or Co-Captain. You can also volunteer to host your annual get together.

Individual responsibilities

- ❑ Lock your doors and windows whenever you leave home, even if it is for a short time.
- ❑ Update security by installing deadbolt locks on exterior doors and additional locks on vulnerable windows.
- ❑ Use electric timers on lamps and radios.
- ❑ Light up the front and back entryways at night, whether you are home or not!
- ❑ Be sure your house address is visible from the street.
- ❑ Keep tools and ladders in a locked storage shed or garage.

If you are interested in starting a Block Watch, please contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator: *Call me and I will help you and your neighbors get organized.*

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