**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PATROL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. WHEN POSSIBLE, PATROL WITH A PARTNER.This is not only a safety measure but also provides an additional witness and assistance in case of trouble.
2. TRANSPORTATION. Walk, drive or both, depending upon weather conditions and coordination with your assigned partner.
3. SCHEDULE. Any hour of the day or night is acceptable and appreciated.
4. ROUTE. Stay within your neighborhood, and the areas you are most familiar with.
5. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. Carry at least (1) flashlight per patrol during nighttime hours. If driving, affix the magnetic car sign to your vehicle. If walking, wear a reflective vest to identify yourself. Patrol logbooks or pads and pencils should be carried. (Or take notes using your cell phone)
6. PATROL UNARMED. Firearms and weapons are strictly prohibited. *Remember that we are the eyes and ears of the community and sheriff’s office, not a vigilante group.*
7. REPORTING. If it looks suspicious, report it. If you suspect criminal activity, observe a crime in progress, or see evidence of a crime, one patrol member should contact the sheriff’s office immediately, identify yourself, the watch group and provide assistance, if it is possible to do so safely.
8. AVOID VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ENCOUNTERS AND DON’T ATTEMPT TO DETAIN ANY PERSON AGAINST THEIR WILL. This might not only be dangerous, but a violation of their civil or legal rights. (*Remember eyes and ears only)*
9. TRY TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS/WITNESSES AND URGE THEM TO FILE A FORMAL COMPLAINT. Many crimes are never reported, remain unsolved, or offenders are not punished because people refuse to get involved.
10. MAINTAIN “HIGH VISIBILITY” DURING PATROL. It’s just as important for potential lawbreakers to see us as it is for us to see them. Our aim is protection, not a high arrest record.
11. ALWAYS PUT SAFETY FIRST. Unnecessary heroics are out of place on patrol.