A Watchful Neighborhood Is The Best Place To Live

While El Segundo enjoys a low crime rate, the only way to keep it that way is by combining the efforts of the residents and police to make the community even safer. The best way to start is by organizing a Neighborhood Watch on your block.

Any community resident can join - young or old, single or married, renter or homeowner. You can form a Watch group around any geographical unit: a block, an apartment building, a park, a business district, multi-housing complexes, or office suites.

Neighborhood Watch groups look out for each other and their neighborhood, and they act as an extra set of the eyes and ears for the police department. The National Crime Prevention Councils says Watch groups have helped reduce crime in some communities by as much as 50%.

How We Can Make El Segundo a Stronger Community

While many residents believe "nothing ever happens in El Segundo," it does. And with the economy struggling, crime is likely to increase. The El Segundo Police Department would like to have an active Neighborhood Watch program so residents will understand how to watch for and recognize crimes in progress, ultimately keeping the crime rate low.

Why Neighborhood Watch?

- Over 40 million crimes are committed every year and the number continues to increase.
- There can't be a law enforcement officer on every corner, so citizen involvement is crucial to combat this social crisis.
- By cooperating with each other and the police, people can help fight crime in their communities in the most effective way - before it begins.
- It's an opportunity to get acquainted with the people that share your neighborhood.

The El Segundo Neighborhood Watch Program consists of two core meetings:

1. Introduction to Neighborhood Watch/Meet Your Police

This meeting will inform residents on what Neighborhood Watch is, reporting suspicious activity, how participation in the program can prevent crime, about the El Segundo Police Department, crime trends and statistics and what makes your area vulnerable. You will meet an officer who patrols your neighborhood and have the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns.

2. Home Security/Designing Out Crime and Personal Safety

This meeting informs residents on easily implemented methods of "designing out crime," also known as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. In addition, you will learn how to avoid becoming a victim during your daily routine.

All meetings last approximately 90 minutes and are generally scheduled Monday through Thursday beginning at 7p.m.

Once the core meetings have been completed, groups are encouraged to have at least one to two maintenance meetings a year to be an official Watch group. There are additional topics that can be discussed at future meetings such as: identity theft, traffic enforcement, narcotics, crime scene investigation, K-9, and others as requested.

If you would like to arrange a Neighborhood Watch meeting or you have already had your first core meeting and would like to continue Neighborhood Watch on your block, please call El Segundo Police Department's Crime Prevention Analyst Laurie Risk at (310) 524-2274.