



CITY OF SNOHOMISH

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

**Joint Workshop with the
SNOHOMISH CITY COUNCIL
and
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

in the
George Gilbertson Boardroom
1601 Avenue D

**TUESDAY
March 20, 2018
5:00 p.m.**

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- 6:00 1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DISCUSSION ITEMS (P.3)**
- a. Neighborhood Watch Re-Development
 - b. Town Hall on Homelessness, Opioids and Addiction
- 6:55 3. **ADJOURN**

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Date: March 20, 2018
To: City Council
From: Keith Rogers, Police Chief
Subject: **Public Safety Commission – Council Workshop**

SUMMARY: During this Council workshop there will be two discussion items presented by Public Safety Commissioners (PSC). The first item of discussion is the PSC's efforts on Neighborhood Watch re-development. The second discussion item is to determine how the Council would like the future PSC hosted Town Hall on Homelessness, Opioids and Addiction to be structured. (E.g. *Formal panel, Open forum, or Table Top Breakout Sessions*).

The Public Safety Commissioners are seeking Council feedback on the direction of their current efforts on these two public safety initiatives.

ATTACHMENT: Information from the Public Safety Commission regarding the Neighborhood Block Watch Concept.

3/20/18

Snohomish City Council Study Session – Neighborhood Watch

Current Situation

The Snohomish Public Safety Commission has within its charter the responsibility for coordinating Neighborhood Watch. Currently there is no city wide effort to do this. The commission felt that city wide growth of Neighborhood Watch could be accomplished by patterning off of the success of the Morgantown Neighborhood Watch which formed in 2010. Encompassing 125 homes 911 calls were reduced by 98% from 124 in 2010 to 3 at the end of 2017. In September 2016 the commission appointed new commission member Donna Ray to head up this effort, being founder of Morgantown Neighborhood Watch and currently one of its co-captains.

Development

After extensive discussion at the commission level, with city residents and with Snohomish Police it was decided that this effort could best be supported by the creation of an organizing grassroots body subsequently titled City of Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watch.

Why an organizing body i.e Coalition?:

It is believed that the best way to build Neighborhood Watch city wide is to have a resource framework where residents can find start up materials, gain access to resources and make a centralized connection to the Neighborhood Watch effort; this builds community. The formation of a coalition increases the odds that, regardless of the individuals involved at start up, that the structure is in place and could run itself; this ensures longevity.

The idea of a network via this organizing body has benefits beyond the formation of Neighborhood Watch. This network of active Neighborhood Watch, connected to each other via the coalition, can be the framework to drop in processes such as disaster planning and crime prevention programs etc. Once individuals are on the roster and their watches mapped, Police, City Government and Fire all have access to this network which can be used to enhance their efforts.

Next Steps

Council and City approval to move forward, approval of Website content.

Launch on Website and rollout via social media/media

Kickoff Event sometime in 2018

Proposed Website Content

Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watch

The Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watch's purpose is to provide coordination between neighborhoods within the City of Snohomish to strengthen community connection and standardize the approach to neighborhood watch, crime prevention and disaster planning. The Coalition is actively seeking new members to join neighborhood watch and help the city achieve this goal. The Coalition assists in and guides formation of neighborhood watch within the city limits with oversight from the Snohomish Public Safety Commission and input from the Snohomish Police, Council, Mayor and city staff.

About Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a partnership between residents that includes Law Enforcement to improve safety and prevent crime. Neighborhood Watch encourages citizens to take responsibility for their own safety through awareness and minimizing opportunities for crime to occur. It encourages a preventative and proactive partnership between citizens and police and the common goal of keeping neighborhoods safe. The City and Local Law Enforcement are meant only to provide you with information related to the National Neighborhood Watch Program and coordinate City wide events to provide you opportunities to interact with other Neighborhood Watch captains and members.

Cooperative community effort is still society's most effective tool in accomplishing objectives too large for individuals. An isolated individual may have little control over his/her environment, but in cooperation with others much can be accomplished. Through Neighborhood Watch you and your neighbors can prevent crime within your community and make it a safer and more secure place to live. Even though today's lifestyles sometimes make it difficult to be as neighborly as we'd like, being a good neighbor can be your best protection when you band together to look out for each other's interests. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon.

- It forges bonds among area residents
- It helps reduce burglaries and robberies
- It improves relations between police and the communities they serve

Neighborhood Watch does not require people to hit the streets and perform police-like patrol duties: rather it encourages neighborhoods to gain some familiarity with each other and to understand what constitutes reportable suspicious activity. The Neighborhood Watch program is not intended to form citizen crime watch patrols or vigilante groups. You are asked only to report the situation to the police and let them handle it. It is not a good idea to confront any suspicious person (s) or attempt to make an arrest yourself; your safety could be in jeopardy.

Start a Neighborhood Watch

Any community resident can spearhead the effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch. For the basic steps to follow to start a Neighborhood Watch see Neighborhood Watch Start Up Kit here (link inserted here, Appendix A). If you would like to contact the Coalition or any current Neighborhood Watch captain (s) please refer to this attached list (link inserted here, Appendix B). Anyone on this list would be happy to assist you!

Appendix A

Neighborhood Watch Start Up Kit (this will be the document content for the link above.)

- Set a date and time for your first meeting and invite your neighbors. Hand delivered or in person invitations yield the best response, but you can also invite via social media if you are already connected to the people you want to include in your Neighborhood Watch.
- Be specific about who you invite to your first meeting as this will establish the size of your watch. Keep the size manageable. It is recommended that you limit your watch to no more than 15 houses, on the same street. This is so that you are able to observe and report effectively.
- Invite a police representative to your first meeting. They will educate you and your neighbors about the Neighborhood Watch effort and be able answer any questions you may have about reporting policies etc. specific to your community.

At your first meeting

- Confirm the geographical boundary. If there is interest beyond this boundary expressed by other neighbors encourage the formation of separate Neighborhood Watches.
- Collect names, addresses, Ph#'s and email addresses for all who attend and establish a communication tool i.e. phone tree, email list or facebook page. It is not recommended that you use Next Door or similar as these won't be specific to your watch group. Whichever tool you choose will be used specifically to report suspicious activity between neighbors and for announcing neighborhood watch sponsored events such as meetings, picnics, disaster preparedness etc.
- Choose a captain or co-captains. These individuals will be the main contact within the Neighborhood Watch to help organize meetings/events and keep the watch organized.

Keeping Neighborhood Watch Active

As crime reporting efforts begin to yield results, interest in the Neighborhood Watch can decline. It is important to keep the neighbor to neighbor connection going regardless of the level of crime incident. Building community and maintaining familiarity within neighborhoods is very important not only for reducing crime but also for disaster planning and general quality of life. Consider scheduling ongoing events that will keep your Neighborhood Watch community engaged. This can be in the form of annual state of the Neighborhood Watch meetings, disaster preparedness (map your neighborhood) and other events such as picnics, National Night Out block parties, parades etc. It is also encouraging to track your neighborhood's 911 calls over time and report this to your Neighborhood Watch. The Crime Mapping tool for Snohomish County is <https://communitycrimemap.com/>

Once your Neighborhood Watch is up and running contact the Snohomish Neighborhood Watch Coalition (facebook page and city website links go here) to be added to the list of City of Snohomish Neighborhood Watches. The Coalition will be creating a map of all of the active Neighborhood Watch within the city and will be hosting city wide Neighborhood Watch meetings and events.

Appendix B

Resource List

Snohomish Neighborhood Outreach Officer – email/Ph#

Snohomish Police Chief – email/Ph#

Snohomish Coalition of Neighborhood Watch – facebook page

Current Neighborhood Watch contacts

Morgantown –

Central –

Blackmans Lake –

Proposed Snohomish City Web Site Presence for Public Safety/ Walkers, Dog Walkers, and Cyclists

Draft - Volunteers

Modified Existing Structure

