

WHY CALL THE POLICE?

Too many people do not call the police when they observe suspicious activity. Consequently, crimes are committed, people are hurt, or property is damaged or stolen. Additionally, once crime has a foothold, it can continue to grow. There are two main reasons why people do not call the police:

1. People are concerned about being a bother to the police in the event that what they called about turns out to be nothing.
2. People are fearful that if they call, their identity and/or where they live will be revealed to the suspect.

Do these concerns sound familiar to you? The police would rather receive several calls for something that turns out not to be a problem than not receive a single call for a crime that could have been prevented. You are not 'bothering' the police with your call. You are the eyes and ears where the police cannot always be. You are watching out for your neighbors and taking initiative to make that important phone call, even if it turns out to be a false alarm. Wouldn't you be relieved to learn someone made a call to the police when they saw something suspicious taking place near your home?

If the police check out a situation and it turns out nothing wrong is taking place, there has been no harm done. More often than not, however, the suspicious feelings you have about something turn up a real problem. Make the call!

As for having to reveal your identity to the suspects, this will not happen. You can make the call, give your name and phone number along with the details of what you have observed, and be assured that the police will not bring the suspect to your door. A follow-up, if necessary, does not need to be done in person and can simply be done over the phone if you request this.

It is important for us all to work together to stop crime. We will share our observations and the police will provide the resources. TOGETHER we will stop crime. Make the call!

FROM THE JULY MEETING

- Chief Mike Skogh and Captain JB Browning dropped by our meeting. Mike shared the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing ("COP") and the guiding principles under which the GPD operates. Emphasis is shifting away from chasing crime statistics to being more focused on problem solving and rallying all city resources to address community concerns. The police are in the communities getting to know people and building relationships. NW is an important part of that cooperative effort. This is community problem solving through thoughtful and willing application of people and resources.
- Ofc. Tom Kang explained the dedicated lifestyle and training of a handler in the K9 unit. On call 24 hours a day, he and Dan, his police dog, find lost persons and criminals in hiding. Together, they save countless department man hours and money. Dan is a thoroughly impressive animal in both stature and training, obeying commands any dog owner would envy. Gardena has two police dogs and is interested in obtaining a dog to specially train for the Narcotics Division. Money recovered in such operations goes directly to the police department that initially 'tagged' it. This is a great benefit to further that department's crime fighting efforts.
- Crime Overview. There has been a rash of break-ins. The perpetrators operate in small groups, often coming first to the front door to find out if anyone is home. Meanwhile, someone else may enter the back of the property. Because of warmer weather, we are likely to see an increase in foot traffic, especially around Crenshaw, of prostitutes and drug dealing. Note that cyclists can quickly and quietly travel the streets and alleys looking for an opportunity or fleeing a crime. Car thefts, while more an issue north of our area, are still something to be concerned about. Toyotas are most commonly stolen, especially Camrys.
- Did you know that, from time to time, some hotels along Crenshaw provide temporary housing to parolees? It would be an exorbitant expense for the state to build and manage facilities, so room

arrangements are made for parolees at these hotels.

- 95% of house alarms are false alarms, costing precious money and time in police response. If you are having a problem with your alarm, contact your alarm company and have it taken care of.
- Police substations are being established in area parks. The offices will have phones, faxes and computers for police to do necessary follow-up to area activity. This is a huge benefit to us because the police remain in our area, rather than heading back to the station. This furthers the goals of COP, keeping the police where the people are. Our closest substation is at the Freeman Center, which the police can access 24 hours a day.
- We look forward to having police drop by our meetings, providing a chance for neighbors and officers to recognize and get to know each other. Ty Lee was at our meeting. He is new to the force and a policeman in training. Welcome Mr. Lee!

FROM THE JULY MEETING

- Chief Mike Skogh and Captain JB Browning dropped by our meeting. Mike shared the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing ("COP") and the guiding principles under which the GPD operates. Emphasis is shifting away from chasing crime statistics to being more focused on problem solving and rallying all city resources to address community concerns. The police are in the communities getting to know people and building relationships. NW is an important part of that cooperative effort. This is community problem solving through thoughtful and willing application of people and resources.
- Ofc. Tom Kang explained the dedicated lifestyle and training of a handler in the K9 unit. On call 24 hours a day, he and Dan, his police dog, find lost persons and criminals in hiding. Together, they save countless department man hours and money. Dan is a thoroughly impressive animal in both stature and training, obeying commands any dog owner would envy. Gardena has two police dogs and is interested in obtaining a dog to specially train for the Narcotics Division. Money recovered in such operations goes directly to the police department that initially 'tagged' it. This is a great benefit to further that department's crime fighting efforts.
- Crime Overview. There has been a rash of break-ins. The perpetrators operate in small groups, often coming first to the front door to find out if anyone is home. Meanwhile, someone else may enter the back of the property. Because of warmer weather, we are likely to see an increase in foot traffic, especially around Crenshaw, of prostitutes and drug dealing. Note that cyclists can quickly and quietly travel the streets and alleys looking for an opportunity or fleeing a crime. Car thefts, while more an issue north of our area, are still something to be concerned about. Toyotas are most commonly stolen, especially Camrys.
- Did you know that, from time to time, some hotels along Crenshaw provide temporary housing to parolees? It would be an exorbitant expense for the state to build and manage facilities, so room arrangements are made for parolees at these hotels.
- 95% of house alarms are false alarms, costing precious money and time in police response. If you are having a problem with your alarm, contact your alarm company and have it taken care of.
- Police substations are being established in area parks. The offices will have phones, faxes and computers for police to do necessary follow-up to area activity. This is a huge benefit to us because the police remain in our area, rather than heading back to the station. This furthers the goals of COP, keeping the police where the people are. Our closest substation is at the Freeman Center, which the police can access 24 hours a day.
- We look forward to having police drop by our meetings, providing a chance for neighbors and officers to recognize and get to know each other. Ty Lee was at our meeting. He is new to the force and a policeman in training. Welcome Mr. Lee!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Your Waste Management weekly trash collection fee will soon be added to your property taxes, instead of billed monthly. Robert Young, of Waste Management, will be our guest speaker at our 8/21 NW meeting to discuss this change and other issues you may have regarding trash collection.
- The NW Block Party will be held Saturday, October 28. Tasks that need to be done (permits, road barricades, activities for kids, and many etc.'s!) have been identified and several people have taken

charge of these. Future planning meetings, all to be held 7PM at Freeman Park are: 8/16, 9/13, 10/11, and 10/25. There is opportunity to get involved in the planning stages as well as the day of the event. Call Louise Stein if you would like to help with this event.

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

Starts at 7:00PM - ends at 8:30PM

FREEMAN PARK at the end of 154th Street, across Van Ness

CONTACT INFO

For crime-related matters, call one of the following numbers:



CRIME IN PROGRESS 911
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 323-7911
GRAFFITI 217-9568
WeTIP 800-78CRIME (800-782-7463)





For ideas & issues regarding GCNW contact:

Ofc. Dave Golf, Lead Officer 217-9670

Dgolf@gardenapd.org

Louise Stein, Block Captain

Louise*GardenaCircle.com

  Safe neighborhoods don't just happen. Make the call! 