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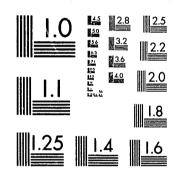
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REPORT FROM THE

SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE

STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA

December 1, 1983

ACQUISITICNS CONTENTS PAGE i HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 50 1 5 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA SURVEY OF THE STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN 10 18 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 24 SOURCES ATTACHMENTS A-1 A. LOCALITIES SPONSORING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

B. LOCALITIES NOT SUPPORTING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH B-1 C. MODEL: NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM GUIDE, C-1 NOVEMBER 10, 1983

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 8, 1983 Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 1983

and

bilities of state government; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Watch programs combine the dual function of deterring crime and encouraging volunteerism among neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Watch programs are a cost-efficient method of protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth against crime; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Secretary of Public Safety is requested to use whatever resources he deems appropriate to publicize the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch programs. encourage neighborhoods throughout the Commonwealth to institute such programs, and lend any necessary technical assistance to localities which are willing to encourage such programs; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Secretary of Public Safety is requested to make inquiry into several cities and counties of the Commonwealth about programs or organized Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch groups: compile information and statistics relative to such existing programs or groups; develop a model Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch plan for use in the several cities and counties of the Commonwealth; publicize throughout the Commonwealth the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch programs as a deterrent to the commission of crime by such means as the Secretary deems to be appropriate; and prepare a report for submission to the 1984 Session of the General Assembly of his actions pursuant to this Resolution; and, be it

Public Safety.

/pb

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 50

Requesting the Secretary of Public Safety to publicize and lend assistance to the formation and operation of Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch Groups.

WHEREAS, crime in the Commonwealth is of great concern to all citizens;

WHEREAS, prevention and deterrence of crime are appropriate responsi-

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates is directed to prepare a copy of this resolution for transmittal to the Secretary of

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Neighborhood Watch or Crime Watch, as practiced in most areas of the nation, is based on a model developed in 1972 by the National Sheriffs' Association.¹ The national Neighborhood Watch program was developed in response to requests from sheriffs and police chiefs for a program which would stem the dramatically increasing rate of burglary in the United States. Major funding for the program was provided by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the United States Department of Justice.

The program concept evolved from the experiences of localities across the country which were encouraging citizens to help law enforcement fight crime by being more observant of suspicious or criminal activity and then reporting that activity to appropriate authorities. The aim of the Sheriffs' Association was to create a national program with federal support from which all U. S. communities could benefit.

The Sheriffs' Association recognized that changes in lifestyles were making neighborhoods less secure and more vulnerable to crime.² Factors such as households where both husband and wife are employed, transience resulting from job transfers, mobility and freedom provided by automobiles, the growing popularity of apartment living, and others, were causing many persons to become strangers to their neighbors. Many neighborhoods became deserted during the day and often, when people were at home, they were not aware or concerned enough to take action if suspicious activity or a crime took place.

In response to these conditions, the Sheriffs' Association Neighbor-

hood Watch program was organized to do the following:³

^o Encourage all citizens to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in reporting crime.

The Sheriffs' Association Neighborhood Watch program is now in its eleventh year. Since it was created, over 8,000 sheriffs, police departments and citizen organizations have been assisted in developing nearly 30,000 separate neighborhood crime prevention programs.⁴ It has been estimated that over 15 million persons in all fifty states as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are participating in the Watch program.

A 1982 Gallup survey found that one in six persons in the United States reported that his or her community had established some form of organized. volunteer anti-crime program.⁵ As many as eight out of ten who did not have a crime watch program established in their neighborhood would like to see such a program established. A 1982 survey conducted by the Chicago-based Burglary Prevention Committee found that 55 percent of 630 police chiefs surveyed ranked reliance on neighbors to report suspicious activity as the best way to catch a burglar in the act. 6

Increase citizen awareness of the problem of burglary through a continuing information program.

° Train citizens in effective means to secure property and then provide them assistance to do so.

Develop a neighborhood action program where neighbors help watch each other's property and report suspicious persons and activities to law enforcement agencies.

Relying on the model established by the National Sheriffs' Association, many organizations are now assisting communities throughout the country to promote Watch programs. Assistance is available from the National Crime Prevention Coalition, the American Association of Retired Persons, the National Association of Town Watch, State Farm Insurance and others. Many states are providing technical assistance, training, and resource material to localities seeking to develop Neighborhood Watch.

Neighborhood Watch continues to be so successful because it is a costeffective method to aid in reducing crime. A study conducted by the Cypress (California) Police Department found that the cost of using citizen volunteers to organize 221 block groups was \$10,289, compared to \$64,753 had police personnel been used.⁷ Similarly, in the Commonwealth, the Fairfax County Police Department estimates the annual worth of Neighborhood Watch citizen volunteers to be 30 million dollars.⁸

Most importantly, several studies have indicated that Neighborhood Watch does help reduce and control neighborhood crime. A 1977 evaluation of the communities participating in the National Sheriffs' Association Watch program found "the program is a positive success in substantially decreasing the number of attempted burglaries...(and) a positive success in lowering the number of successfully completed residential burglaries."⁹ The Neighborhood Watch Program in Detroit, Michigan, which has received considerable recognition, has realized significant decreases in residential crime. One Detroit area of 155 blocks which participated in Neighborhood Watch experienced a 61 percent decrease in residential burglary from 1977 through 1979.¹⁰ A similar control area recorded only a 12 percent residential burglary decrease. William Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has attributed part of the reason for the 4 percent decrease in the nation's crime rate from 1981 to 1982 to citizen participation in crime prevention programs like Neighborhood Watch.11

Neighborhood Watch has grown tremendously since 1972, not only in terms of citizen support but also in terms of program ideas. The original concept of neighbors watching out for each other has been expanded to enlist the aid of regular visitors of neighborhoods, such as realtors, government employees, utility workers, postmen, and others, to create Realtor Watch, Employee Watch and Postal Watch programs. Neighboring businessmen have been organized to encourage businesses to watch out for each other through Business Watch programs. Continued growth will be limited only by the desire of people to participate.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN VIRGINIA

The Neighborhood Watch program model developed by the National Sheriffs' Association is believed to have been first implemented in Virginia in 1973 when the city of Richmond included Neighborhood Watch as a crime prevention strategy in its High Incidence Target (HIT) program funded by the Division of Justice and Crime Prevention (now the Department of Criminal Justice Services).¹² The HIT program provided funding for eleven major Virginia communities during the years 1973 through 1977. The goal of the HIT program was to concentrate criminal justice resources against specific crimes, such as burglary and robbery, to reduce their incidence.

Although Richmond was the first Virginia community to adopt the formal Neighborhood Watch model, communities in the Commonwealth and elsewhere in the nation had been supporting similar citizen observing and reporting programs for some time. A system of citizen patrols was organized in Norfolk in 1966 to act as extra eyes and ears for the police.¹³ Unfortunately, at that time many viewed the citizen patrols as vigilantism rather than volunteer neighborhood crime prevention.

From the initial Neighborhood Watch program adopted in 1973 until 1977, the program underwent very little growth. In 1977, a survey was conducted by the Division of Justice and Crime Prevention to determine how many local law enforcement agencies were providing crime prevention services such as Neighborhood Watch, Operation Identification, Security Surveys, Rape Prevention and Child Safety. The survey found only sixteen agencies were providing such services and, of those sixteen, only eleven were supporting Neighborhood Watch.

The survey results led the Secretary of Public Safety to conclude that local law enforcement should give greater support to the crime prevention concept. At the Secretary's request, a plan was developed in 1978 which called for the Division of Justice and Crime Prevention to take a lead role in encouraging more law enforcement agencies to develop the capability to provide crime prevention services--including Neighborhood Watch--to the public. Neighborhood Watch is an integral part of crime prevention and any effort which promotes crime prevention, in most circumstances, promotes Neighborhood Watch.

A major goal of the crime prevention plan was to create a statewide crime prevention association. The combined efforts of state government, local law enforcement, private business, industry, civic groups and service clubs, led to the founding of the Virginia Crime Prevention Association in 1978. The association has grown from 75 members in 1978 to nearly 250 in 1983.

While the initial phases of the crime prevention plan were being implemented, the 1978 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 51 which called for the establishment of a Sexual Assault Resource Center within the Public Safety Secretariat. Realizing the potential to promote other crime prevention concepts in addition to sexual assualt prevention, the Secretary

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of Public Safety expanded the scope of the resource center to include all crime prevention in general.

Relying on existing resources, the Secretary of Public Safety began promoting a crime prevention program with two major components:

- (1) Technology Transfer:
 - Prepare and distribute a crime prevention newsletter.
 - Prepare and distribute a crime prevention resource directory.
 - ° Establish a clearinghouse for crime prevention information.
 - ° Prepare and distribute instructional guides on major crime prevention topics.
 - ° Establish a speaker's bureau and other public awareness activities.
- (2) Program Development and Assistance:
 - ° Develop a volunteer technical assistance delivery system.
 - ° Provide staff assistance to the Virginia Crime Prevention Association.
 - Provide on-site technical assistance.
 - Develop and implement crime prevention training sessions and workshops.

At the request of the Secretary of Public Safety, the Virginia Department of State Police became involved in the crime prevention effort in 1980. Their role was to help establish local crime prevention councils throughout the state. The purpose of the councils is to define local crime problems and develop crime prevention programs to combat them. The Department of State Police serves as a facilitator and provides technical and resource assistance.

The Secretary of Public Safety, relying on the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Department of State Police, has developed a statewide initiative on crime prevention which is now providing a variety of services to all types of interest groups. Since 1978, some of the major accomplishments of this effort have been:

- have been answered.

- have been established.
- enforcement agencies.

The following specific tasks have been accomplished by the Public Safety

Secretariat which have served to promote Neighborhood Watch:

- in the state.

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• Nearly 600 requests for crime prevention resource information

Nearly 1,100 crime prevention practitioners and community leaders representing 130 different organizations have received training through 21 crime prevention seminars and training sessions.

^o Major crime prevention presentations have been given to an estimated 6,000 representatives of government, business and community groups.

• All local law enforcement agencies have been introduced to the crime prevention council program and eighteen crime prevention councils

• Direct on-site assistance has been provided to approximately 75 law

* An instructional "Law Enforcement Neighborhood Watch Guide" was developed and made available to law enforcement. Approximately 1,000 copies have been distributed in the state.

^o A Neighborhood Watch brochure was developed and produced, and 25,000 copies were distributed in the state.

^o A "Community Guide for Organizing A Neighborhood Watch Program" was produced. Approximately 500 copies have been distributed

Arrangements were made to have the Department of Corrections produce and make available on order, at minimal cost, two sizes of Neighborhood Watch warning signs.

The interest of elected officials in crime prevention programs such as Neighborhood Watch has been made apparent by activity such as:

- ° President Ronald Reagan met with representatives of Fairfax County and recognized the achievements of that county's Neighborhood Watch program. This was also brought to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and entered into the Congressional Record by Representative Frank R. Wolf.
- The 1982 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 121 commending the activities of Neighborhood Watch groups in the state 0 and encouraged more citizens to participate.
- The 1983 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 50, directing the Secretary of Public Safety to survey the status of 0 Neighborhood Watch and take steps to promote it further.

These activities and events reflect much of what has been done to further crime prevention and Neighborhood Watch by state agencies working in conjunction with national, state and local organizations. However, the majority of the effort to develop and promote crime prevention programs at the local level comes from local law enforcement. The status of Neighborhood Watch promoted through local law enforcement agencies is reflected in the following Survey of the Status of Neighborhood Watch in Virginia.

| S | SURVEY OF TH | IE STATUS (| DF NEIGHBORHOO | D WATCH IN | N VIRGINIA |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| On Ju | ıly 6, 1983, | , a survey | form seeking | informatio | on on the stat |
| Neighborhoo | d Watch was | sent by t | the Department | of Crimir | nal Justice Se |
| to nearly 3 | 00 local la | w enforcem | ment agencies | in Virgini | a. Responses |
| received fr | om 179 loca | lities rep | presenting all | 41 cities | ;, all 95 coun |
| and 43 town | s. These a | re the maj | jor findings o | f that sur | vey. |
| 1. D W | loes your ag latch, or so | ency spons me similar | sor or promote community cr | Neighborh ime preven | nood Watch, Co ntion activity |
| | Law En | forcement | Support for N | eighborhod | d Watch |
| | | City | County | Town | Total |
| N | 0 5 | (12%) | | 19 (43%) 24 (57%) 43 (100%) | 120 (67%) 59 (33%) 179 (100%) |
| Aa | list of th s ATTACHMEN | e sponsori T A. | ng cities, co | unties and | l towns is inc |
| A i | list of ci s included | ties and c as ATTACHM | counties not s IENT B. | ponsoring | Neighborhood |
| 2. I d | iction, whe | n did you | upporting Nei first become | involved w | ith this acti |
| | YEAR | PROGRAMS | | YEAR | PROGRAMS |
| | 1968 1969 • | 1 1 | | 1977 1978 1979 1980 | 1 5 11 21 |
| | 1973 1974 1975 1976 | 1 3 1 1 | | 1981 1982 1983 Unknown | 18 34 17 5 |
| т | | heaun in | 1968 and 1969 | nredate t | he model esta |

The programs begun in 1968 and 1969 predate the model established by the National Sheriffs' Association and represent local efforts to encourage citizen observation and reporting from which the model program was developed.

itus of Services es were unties,

Community ty?

cluded

Watch

ır juristivity?

3. How many organized, separate Neighborhood Watch groups are there in your jurisdiction?

4. How many households are participating in Neighborhood Watch in your jurisdiction?

Neighborhood Watch Participation

| | City | County | Town | Total | |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--|
| Groups | 872 | 1,262 | 54 | 2,188 | |
| Households | 76,709 | 111,335 | 10,283 | 198,327 | |

The estimate of nearly 200,000 households participating is very conservative, because poor record-keeping prevented 33 localities from providing estimates of the number of households participating.

5. Which of these activities do your Neighborhood Watch groups participate in?

Neighborhood Watch Activities

| Neighborhood Foot/Car | City | County | Town | Total |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Patrol C.B. Radio Patrol Operation Identification Security Surveys Neighborhood Crime | 16 15 33 29 | 31 14 49 37 | 5 4 12 11 | 52 33 94 77 |
| Analysis Block Parent | 17 13 | 16 9 | 5 6 | 38 28 |

Brief definitions of these activities:

- Neighborhood Foot/Car Patrol Actual patrol of neighborhoods by citizens on foot or by vehicle
- C.B. Radio Patrol Use of C.B. radios to speed communications to coordinate activities and make reports to authorities.

5. Continued

Operation Identification - A program of marking property or recording serial numbers of items such as televisions, cameras, firearms, etc., to enhance identification and return of stolen property.

Neighborhood Crime Analysis - Crime analysis data used to focus activities and keep residents abreast of existing neighborhood problems.

Block Parent - Through certain designated homes, safe haven is provided to children in need of assistance and unable to contact parents or guardians.

6. What symbol or logo do you use in your Neighborhood Watch program?

Neighborhood Watch Symbol or Logo

Boris, the Bur Homes and Eye Watch Eye Northern Virgi McGruff Warning Commun Badge Slash Over Cri Slash Over Bur Binoculars Not Available

Total

The variety of symbols is the result of using the symbol found on whatever material can be obtained for little or no cost; or in some cases it is the result of wanting to be distinctive.

| | City | County | Town | Total |
|-------------|------|--------|------|-------------------|
| ırglar | 11 | 20 | 6 | 37 |
| • - | 9 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| jinia Eye | | 2 2 | | 4 2 2 12 |
| • | 1 | ī | | 2 |
| inity Watch | 3 . | 7 | 2 | 12 |
| • | | 2 | | 2 |
| ime | 1 | _ | | ī |
| Inglar | | 1 | | î |
| • | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| or None | 9 | 27 | 9 | 45 |
| | 36 | 65 | 19 | 120 |
| | | | | |

Watch?

10. Have you received any private funds to promote Neighborhood Watch?

Public Funds

YES NO

Private Fund

YES NO

service budgets.

- - enforcement.

ç

| 7. | Which of the | following have you used to promote or enhance | |
|----|--------------|---|--|
| | Neighborhood | Watch in your jurisdiction? | |

Tools to Promote or Enhance Neighborhood Watch

| | City | County | Town | Total |
|---|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Brochures Neighborhood Watch | 32 | 52 | 17 | 101 |
| Signs | 32 | 51 | 15 | 98 |
| Window Warning Decals Vehicle Identification | 29 | 47 | 11 | 87 |
| Decals | 11 | 18 | 3 | 32 |
| Films/Slides | 28 | 41 | 12 | 81 |
| Speakers Newsletter | 34 15 | 48 18 | 15 5 | 97 38 |
| Newspaper | 30 | 41 | 15 | 86 |
| Radio | 22 18 | 24 14 | 7 | 53 35 |
| Television | 10 | 14 | 3 | 55 |

8. Which of the following organizational tools are used in your Neighborhood Watch program?

| Organizational Tools | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|------|-------|
| | City | County | Town | Total |
| Regularly Scheduled | | | | |
| Meetings | 26 | 36 | 13 | 75 |
| Citizen Neighborhood Watch | | | | |
| Coordinator | 28 | 48 | 12 | 88 |
| Citizen Block/Road Captains | 28 | 37 | 11 | 76 |
| Newsletter | 16 | 12 | 6 | 34 |
| Telephone Call-Up System | 18 | 25 | 8 | 51 |
| Neighborhood Parties | 14 | 15 | 6 | 35 |
| Regular Contact with | | | | |
| Local Law Enforcement | 29 | 45 | 14 | 88 |

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9. Have you received any local public funding to promote Neighborhood

| | Neighborhood | Watch Fundi | ng | |
|-----|--------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| | City | County | Town | Total |
| ds | | | | |
| | 11 25 | 18 47 | 3 16 | 32 88 |
| nds | | | | |
| | 10 26 | 20 45 | 5 14 | 35 85 |

All 120 of the departments supporting Neighborhood Watch are to some extent providing public funds to further the concept; however 32 departments responded that designated funds were being allocated for Neighborhood Watch. Estimates of the amounts were not available because most departments could not single out Neighborhood Watch funds from overall crime prevention or community

Private funds in the amount of \$12,425 were received by 35 law enforcement agencies. These contributions typically come from business or civic groups.

11. Have you encountered any unusual problems in promoting your Neighborhood Watch program, such as vigilantism or strong resistance from segments of the community?

Only fifteen jurisdictions reported any major difficulties. The primary problem was being unable to receive enough citizen support. A few areas reported problems with members of Watch groups being a bit overzealous, by attempting to do things best left to law

12. Have you received assistance from any of the following groups in developing and promoting Neighborhood Watch?

Sources of Assistance

| | City | County | Town | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------|------|-------|
| Virginia Department of Criminal | | | | |
| Justice Services | 26 | 33 | 11 | 70 |
| Virginia Department of State Police | 18 | 32 | 8 | 58 |
| Virginia Crime Commission | 9 | 8 | 4 | 21 |
| Virginia Crime Prevention Association | 24 | 23 | 11 | 58 |
| Virginia Sheriffs' Association | 8 | 24 | 5 | 37 |
| Virginia Association of Chiefs of | | | | |
| Police | 7 | 5 | 4 | 16 |
| Virginia Tech Extension Service | 18 | 24 | 8 | 50 |
| National Crime Prevention Coalition | 22 | 21 | 10 | 53 |
| National Center for Community Anti- | | | | |
| Crime Programs | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| National Sheriffs' Association | 18 | 37 | 5 | 60 |
| International Association of Chiefs | | | | |
| of Police | 13 | 6 | 2 | 21 |
| Other (American Association of | | | | |
| Retired Persons, insurance | | | | |
| industry, other law enforcement | | | | |
| agencies, etc.) | 21 | 19 | 9 | 49 |

13. Have any of the following spinoffs of Neighborhood Watch been organized in your jurisdiction?

| <u>Neighb</u> | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|------|---------|
| | City | County | Town | Total |
| Business Watch Employee Watch | 7 4 | 11 2 | 2 | 20 6 |
| Carrier Watch Realtor Watch | 1 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 5 |
| Total | 15 | 14 | 3 | 32 |

14. Have you conducted any formal study of the effect of Neighborhood Watch in terms of reduced crime, reduced fear, or increased citizen participation?

Studies were County.

.

Fiscal '82 Fiscal '83

July-December January-June July-December January-June

Watch Area 1 Watch Area 2 Watch Area 3 Watch Area 4

Total (all 4 a

15

Studies were available from Falls Church, Hampton and Arlington

Falls Church

Residential Burglaries

| Watch Areas | Non-Watch Areas | Total |
|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| 0 | 37 | 37 |
| 2 | 29 | 31 |

Hampton

| | Reside | ntial | Burglary Rat | e | | |
|--------------|--------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------|-------|
| 85 | Watch | Areas | Contro | Non | -Watch | Areas |
| r 1981 | | er 44 | | per | | |
| 1982 1982 | 2 1 p | er 58 er 64 |] | l per l per | 52 | |
| 1983 | 1 p | er 85 |] | l per | 62 | |

Arlington County

Residential Burglaries

| One Year Before Neighborhood Watch | | One Year After Neighborhood Watch | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| - | 9 4 5 1 | 0 0 1 1 | | |
| areas) 2 | 9 | 2 | | |

15. In terms of what you would like to accomplish with Neighborhood Watch in your community, whether or not such programs are currently existing in your community, what do you feel are areas where you need assistance?

Neighborhood Watch Needs

| | City | County | Town | Total |
|---------------------------|------|--------|------|-------|
| Resource Information | 11 | 34 | 17 | 62 |
| Training | 18 | 40 | 19 | 77 |
| Personnel | 13 | 45 | 20 | 78 |
| Brochures, Handouts, etc. | 17 | 49 | 24 | 90 |
| State Funding | 16 | 38 | 17 | 71 |
| Federal Funding | 9 | 30 | 13 | 52 |

Law enforcement agencies in 120 cities, counties and towns in the Commonwealth are now supporting Neighborhood Watch. Conservative estimates indicate that nearly 200,000 households, or 10 percent of the residences in the Commonwealth, are participating in local Neighborhood Watch programs. Several localities have conducted evaluations which have found that neighborhoods participating in Neighborhood Watch have experienced crime reductions or have less crime than similar neighborhoods not participating in Neighborhood Watch.

Neighborhood Watch is offering many citizens the opportunity to become directly involved with law enforcement in neighborhood crime prevention. Through acceptance and participation in Neighborhood Watch, citizens are demonstrating that crime is a problem to be dealt with not only by law enforcement, but that it is a community problem in which all residents can play a role in reducing criminal opportunity.

Citizen involvement in neighborhood crime prevention is providing law enforcement with a significant resource. While this resource is difficult to measure, it has had numerous beneficial effects. The exchanges resulting from increased citizen-law enforcement cooperation are fostering more positive relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Most importantly, the Watch programs are achieving their primary objectives--the reduction of crime and a lessening of people's fear of crime.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Watch programs can be found in all urban, suburban and rural areas of the state. Law enforcement agencies as large as 700 sworn officers and as small as one sworn officer are promoting Neighborhood Watch. Law enforcement and community crime prevention groups are receiving assistance from service clubs, professional organizations, churches, schools, businesses and national organizations. These services are provided mainly at no cost.

Additional crime prevention programs are being started or expanded relying on the organizational structure created by Neighborhood Watch. Crime prevention programs dealing with home security, child safety, rape prevention and substance abuse are being made available to residents of the Commonwealth. Crime prevention is the primary concern of Neighborhood Watch groups but other topics, such as first aid, fire safety and traffic safety, are also being addressed. In many areas of the state, Neighborhood Watch has fostered the development of community organization. This has led to local community pride, transitioning a geographic collection of homes and people into viable neighborhoods.

The survey of law enforcement agencies found considerable support for Neighborhood Watch and this support is expected to continue growing. Several problems which are tending to limit localities in achieving the greatest potential of Neighborhood Watch were identified through the survey. These problems are:

* No common symbol or identifier for Neighborhood Watch (or crime prevention).

At least ten different symbols or identifiers are being utilized across the state in Neighborhood Watch promotions. This creates confusion and makes it difficult for people to quickly identify a message pertaining to Neighborhood Watch.

Many jurisdictions with funding for awareness material are developing and producing material unique to their particular jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions without funds for awareness material must accept the format and quality of material obtained at little or no cost. This is an inefficient use of resources and tends to add to the problem of people being unable to quickly identify Neighborhood Watch public awareness material.

Many law enforcement agencies were unable to answer questions in the Neighborhood Watch survey because inadequate records of activities are being kept. Records are vital to determine the level of community support, but are most important when conducting evaluations of the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch programs.

^o Lack of uniformity in public awareness material.

Inadequate records-keeping by law enforcement.

[°] Limited crime prevention training opportunities for law enforcement personnel.

Crime prevention training must compete with other law enforcement training needs, many of which are legally mandated. Crime prevention is a relatively new topic and the pool of qualified instructors is somewhat limited for in-state instruction. The alternative of out-of-state instruction is costly and again must compete with other training priorities.

The role of the Public Safety Secretariat in promoting Neighborhood Watch has been to serve as a catalyst to encourage localities throughout the state to adopt Neighborhood Watch. Responsibility for establishing Neighborhood Watch programs has rested with the localities, with the Public Safety Secretariat providing technical assistance, training and resource information. The Public Safety Secretariat will continue the character of the existing relationship with the localities relying on existing resources. The following activities are planned by the Public Safety Secretariat to encourage greater participation in Neighborhood Watch and to assist participating localities in achieving greater potential from Neighborhood Watch efforts.

[°] Recommend that the Governor or the General Assembly, by resolution, designate McGRUFF, the crime dog, as the official symbol for crime prevention in Virginia, and designate the phrase "TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME" as the official slogan of crime prevention in Virginia.

[°] Distribute the Model Neighborhood Watch Program Guide, developed in accordance with House Joint Resolution No. 50, to all law enforcement agencies and other interest groups in the Commonwealth.

- programs.
- ested groups.
- instruction.
- throughout the Commonwealth.

21

^o Provide additional training seminars to law enforcement and other interested groups on Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention

Distribute to the news media statewide a press release on the findings of the Survey of the Status of Neighborhood Watch in Virginia, and distribute the survey report to law enforcement and other inter-

Provide information concerning the status and nature of Neighborhood Watch to newspapers, magazines, journals and other forms of mass communication produced for residents of the Commonwealth.

[°] Assist law enforcement training academies in developing crime prevention training guidelines for mandated basic law enforcement

Continue to expand and develop local crime prevention councils

Continue to serve as a Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention 0 resource center to law enforcement and other interested groups throughout the Commonwealth.

- 2 Ibid.
- 4 The National Sheriff, p. 24.
- 5 Gallup Survey, 1982.

- 9 The National Sheriff, p. 25.

SOURCES

1 "The National Neighborhood Watch Program," <u>The National Sheriff</u>, December 1982-January 1983, p. 24.

3 The National Sheriffs' Association, National Neighborhcod Watch Program Manual, 1976, p. 2.

6 Chicago Burglary Prevention Committee, 1982.

7 Ronald E. Lowenberg and Robert A. Bondurroga, "Neighborhood Watch: A Community Resource," <u>The Police Chief</u>, February 1983, p. 34.

8 <u>Congressional Record</u>, April 12, 1983 (remarks of Representative Frank R. Wolf).

10 American Association of Retired Persons, "Neighborhood Watch, Detroit Model." Unpublished report, February 19, 1981.

11 Crime Prevention Coalition, Catalyst, June 1983.

12 Arthur Young and Company, "High Incidence Target Project Evaluation Report." Unpublished report, May 1975.

13 Virginian-Pilot, September 10, 1966.

ATTACHMENT A LOCALITIES SPONSORING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Cities Alexandria Fredericksburg Bedford Galax Bristol Hampton Charlottesville Hopewell Chesapeake Lexington Colonial Heights Lynchburg Covington Manassas Danville Manassas Park Emporia Martinsville Fairfax Newport News Falls Church Norfolk ATTACHMENTS Franklin Petersburg Counties Albemarle Goochland Alleghany Amelia Grayson Greene Appomattox Greensville Arlington Halifax Augusta Hanover Bedford Henrico Botetourt Henry Isle of Wight Buckingham Campbel1 James City King George King William Caroline Carroll Charles City Loudoun Charlotte Louisa Chesterfield Mathews Mechlenburg Essex Middlesex Fairtax Fauquier Montgomery Fluvanna New Kent Franklin Orange Patrick Frederick Gloucester Pittsylvania A-1

Poquoson Portsmouth Richmond Roanoke Salem South Boston Staunton Suffolk Virginia Beach Waynesboro Winchester Williamsburg

Powhatan Prince George Prince William Pulaski Richmond Roanoke Rockbridge Rockingham Russell Scott Shenandoah Smyth Spotsylvania Stafford Surry Tazewell Warren Washington Westmoreland Wythe York

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ATTACHMENT A - continued

LOCALITIES SPONSORING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Towns

Ashland Big Stone Gap Bluefield Chincoteague Gretna Halifax Herndon Hurt Leesburg Marion

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Narrows Pearisburg Pulaski Rocky Mount Urbanna Vienna Vienna Warrenton Warrenton Warsaw

ATTACHMENT B

LOCALITIES NOT SPONSORING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Cities

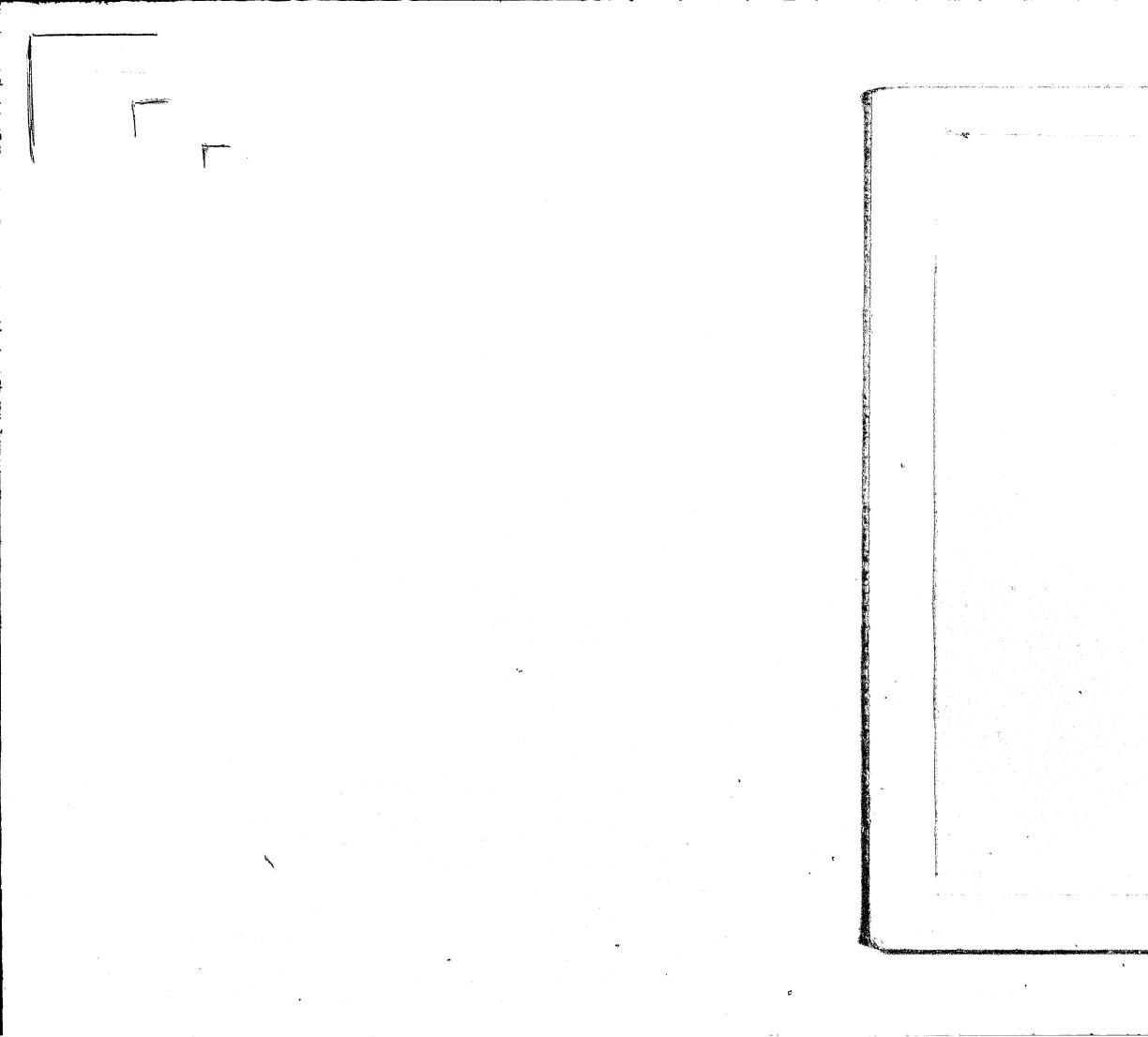
Buena Vista Clifton Forge Harrisonburg Norton Radford

Counties

| Accomack |
|------------|
| Amherst |
| Bath |
| Bland |
| Brunswick |
| Buchanan |
| Clarke |
| Craig |
| Culpeper |
| Cumberland |
| Dickenson |
| Dinwiddie |
| Floyd |
| Giles |
| Highland |

King and Queen Lancaster Lee Lunenburg Madison Nelson Northampton Northumberland Nottoway Page Prince Edward Rappahannock Southampton Sussex Wise

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