DATE:  June 20, 2014

TO:  Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee: Sheffie Kadane (Chair),
     Adam Medrano (Vice Chair), Dwaine Caraway, Jennifer S. Gates, Sandy Greyson,
     Scott Griggs

SUBJECT:  Crime Watch Organizations

Attached is the briefing material on the "Crime Watch Organizations" to be presented to
the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, June 23, 2014.

Ryan S. Evans
Interim First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc:  Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
     A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
     Warren M. S. Ernst, City Attorney
     Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
     Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
     Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
     Jill A. Jordan, P. E., Assistant City Manager
     Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
     Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
     Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager
     Theresa O‘Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
     Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
     Shawn Williams, Interim Public Information Officer
     Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council

"Dallas - Together, we do it Better"
Crime Watch Organizations
Public Safety Committee
June 23, 2014
What is a Crime Watch?

- Partnership of neighbors working together to make their communities safer
  - Works closely with the police department and other local organizations to reduce crime
  - Promotes knowing neighbors to build a strong community
  - Aims to help people be familiar with their surroundings and identify what is out of place
History of Crime Watch Organizations

- 1960’s – New York City neighborhoods form crime watch groups in response to violent crimes
- 1972 – National Sheriffs’ Association begin nationwide efforts to grow crime watch
- 1970 – 80’s – Dallas citizens form crime watch groups
- 1994 – The Dallas Crime Watch Executive Board is established
Objectives of Crime Watch Groups

• Prevent crime by creating and maintaining a caring community
• Reduce opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness
• Assist the police with prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity
• Provide effective communication between the police department and community through crime watch meetings, social media, and community events
Identifying Communities in need of Crime Watch Groups

• Through use of crime data and analysis, we prioritize areas in need of crime watches that do not currently have one

• Officers contact citizens through presentations presented at community events such as “Chief on the Beat”
Crime Watch through Citizen Initiative

• Contact the Dallas Police Department to schedule a meeting with their local Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO)

• Obtain a copy of the Crime Watch Executive Board (CWEB) Resource Package

• Recruit and organize neighbors

• Hold regular meetings to discuss community concerns and develop an action plan
Neighborhood Police Officers and Crime Watch Groups

• NPO’s are a specialized group of officers designed to be liaisons between the Police Department and the community
  – NPO’s receive training on community organization and crime watch formation

• Each crime watch group is given a NPO contact
  – NPO’s attend crime watch and homeowner’s association meetings and provide regular feedback on community concerns
Division Crime Watch Groups
Current City Wide Total – 1,095

• Central - 64
• Southeast - 142
• Northwest - 199
• South Central - 111

• Northeast - 196
• Southwest - 154
• North Central - 229
Intelligence Sharing

• Members of the community see more than the police
• Citizens take ownership of information provided
• Every meeting with the police has an intelligence sharing aspect:
  – Community gives the police actionable information
  – The police department acts on the information
  – Community provides feedback on actions taken
Social Media

- Currently the police department utilizes Dallaspolice.net, individual division websites, Facebook, Twitter, Nixle, a newly created blog at DPDBeat.com, and email notifications/alerts to communicate crime alerts, crime prevention information, and general information.

- The iWatch App allows citizens to provide anonymous tips to the Dallas Police Department through use of smart phone and tablets.
Social Media Contacts – 2014 YTD

- Facebook fans: 43,000
- Twitter followers: 36,500
- YouTube subscribers: 1,613
- Nixle contacts: 7,288
- Instagram: 320
- DPDBeat Views (Blog) 362,087
Summary

• The Dallas Police Department continues to have success in creating relationships with the community through crime watches

• Crime Watch groups create sustainable safe communities by identifying areas in need of resources

• This program empowers the community to work with the police department to lower crime rates

• Citizens belonging to a crime watch group take ownership of their neighborhood
Questions?