

COMMUNITY FORUM - NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

JANUARY 16, 2013, 6:30-8:30 pm

The link to initial presentation from the evening is located at

<http://portal.sliderocket.com/CWZDO/Community-Watch>

List of ideas and thoughts developed by small breakout groups:

- Infrastructure needed for neighbors to get to know neighbors (like Ames, Iowa): phone list, e-mail list, communication with landlords, block party van
- Reference cards with numbers & tips, etc.
- Smart phone application (“see, click, fix” model)
- Better street and bike path lighting
- Neighborhood Watch signage
- FPF – ensure that crimes mentioned on the forum are reported to police
- Additional resources for individuals with mental illness to report crime & support them
- Explore the renewed use of bike patrols
- Education for residents to encourage reporting crime, suspicious activity, quality of life, issues, etc.
- Neighborhood watch meetings within neighborhoods
- Citizens’ Academy
- Create neighborhood “plan” to engage residents
- Replicate successful neighborhood watch models
- Ensure outreach to new Americans on these topics
- Intelligence sharing with NW/residents (e-mail)
- Use of block parties to bring neighbors together
- Identify people in neighborhoods that want to get involved
- Promote and refine BPD website: possibly develop a smart phone app
- Support with Assoc. landlords
- Neighborhood “gatekeeper” liaison
- Use Auxiliary police staff for follow-up
- Continue to use foot patrols
- Expand the number self-defense classes (R.A.D.)
- Regular Neighborhood Watch meetings with Community VISTA
- Interface with BPD: traditional reporting, intermediate phone number, use of technology, 2-way communication
- Explore municipal signs (widespread) - “private cameras in use”
- Mechanism to identify deterrence activities: lights off, neighborhood “buy in” (how do we get “buy in” from those not here? How many or % to work?)
- Concern for erroneous reports (racism?)
- Foster communication among neighbors: summer vs. winter, how (Internet?)

NEXT STEPS:

Create a small committee to organize ideas and possible action steps

Volunteers will be solicited from attendees, via Front Porch Forum, NIXLE, and other avenues. Anyone with interest should email Greta Dumas at gdumas@bpdvt.org or call 802-540-2107 by February 1, 2013.

- Communication: 2-way (reports & what happens with reports), explore use of See Click Fix App as portal for reports & information.
- Replicate NPA best practices, what works with national prevention
- Pilot project for signage? Updated/new graphics
- City-wide porch light or motion light campaign
- Get people to work together, meet with BPD staff and Officers 3x a year, community building – long-term, organize watch groups, larger safety dialog with YMCA/CEDO, etc.