

Citizens of South Harrison Township,

It is with great pleasure to announce the South Harrison Township Police Departments intent to assist residents with the establishment of an organized community watch program.

#### WHAT IS COMMUNITY WATCH?

The primary function of a Community Watch Program is to encourage residents to become more aware of activities around them as they go about their normal routines and to act as the “eyes and ears” of the police. Whatever the terminology used in the local community, the philosophy and principles of the Program are basically the same. Participants are instructed to promptly report any unusual activity as accurately as possible to the authorities. Criminals find it difficult to operate in any area where citizens take an active role in crime prevention.

#### WHAT COMMUNITY WATCH IS NOT.

It is not the formation of vigilante groups. It is not a plan whereby individual citizens attempt to pursue or apprehend a criminal, or become involved with an actual event (other than making a report to the police from a **SAFE** vantage point). It is not a law enforcement program, but rather a cooperative effort among responsible citizens to improve security for themselves, their families and their property.

#### ROLE OF THE POLICE.

The police department provides assistance during the formation of the group with expertise, literature and/or hands on exhibits. The police department acts as an advisor to the group by explaining the elements of the standardized plan for Community Watch, emphasizing those features which are the basis of its success such as “block” organization, alert “eyes and ears”, telephone network and maintenance meetings.

#### ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY WATCH PARTICIPANTS.

1. Vigilance in being alert to and promptly reporting unusual activity in the neighborhood.
2. Mutual assistance – cooperating with neighbors in paying particular attention to homes of people who are on vacation.
3. Improved home security – By conducting a security survey through a self-analysis or by having the police department conduct the survey; then taking steps to comply with the survey recommendations.
4. Participating in Operation Identification by marking property with the numbering system recommended by the police department.

5. Communication is enhanced through a telephone network as information can be exchanged quickly and easily.

6. Maintenance meetings are important to meet new members of the group and to receive the most up-to-date information and training.

For more information please contact the South Harrison Township Police Department at 856-769-2879 and request Sergeant Nicholas P. Priore at extension 112.