

**LINDEN RIDGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**COMMUNITY WATCH MEETING 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

**MINUTES**

In attendance:

Lieutenant W.A. Hoehlein of the Sheriff's Patrol Division

Also

Jim & Barbara Sieme  
John & Dawn McDonald  
Eric & Karen Sadler  
Rocco D'Aprile  
Mike Peacock  
Wyndi & Han Hills

Introduction

The purpose of the meeting, arranged by the HOA VP, John McDonald, was to meet with a representative and find out more about setting up a Community Watch Program in Linden Ridge.

The format began with a verbal presentation by Lieutenant Hoehlein (hereafter Lt) and ended with general discussion points.

**The following are the initial salient points of the meeting:**

It was agreed by all LR homeowners present that we felt we lived in a good neighborhood. Lt pointed out that good neighborhoods were exactly the type targeted by bad people and that the goal was to make our community "unattractive to the bad guys".

Lt gave us certain basic advice principles to consider in the neighborhood and for individual homes:

Minimize the shadows for criminals to hide in by providing good lighting around the community.

Motion detectors add significantly to the safety of homes at night.

Timers for lighting when away on vacation are a good safety measure.

Curtains and blinds reduce the ability of a criminal to scope out a property.

Lock garages, as these are popular targets.

Keep doors to a home locked when not in use (even if home) to avoid intruders.

If an intruder enters your home get out as fast as possible and contact 911. Keep cell phones accessible at night in case of any emergency.

Alarms are a great safety advantage in a property. Consider factors such as response times when shopping around and consider perhaps a panic button in the bedroom as a measure against night intruders.

Keep the siren of alarm units inaccessible (for example in the eaves of a house) so they cannot easily be disabled.

Fire alarm units are also a good idea, especially in consort with security and, in fact, most security systems offer heat detectors as add ons, and these should give loud warning inside and outside the home.

### **For cars:**

Do not leave anything visible as a temptation for a smash and grab.

Keep cars locked when not in use, even outside the home.

### **In case of any incident or spotting and suspect or criminal activity:**

Be a good witness. Think about giving the Police general details (don't get bogged down in specifics) and remember that different lighting conditions can distort colors. Better to say simply light or dark than make a mistake on a specific color.

Do not accost suspicious people in the neighborhood. Call 911.  
Trust your instincts. If something seems out of place from the regular activity in your neighborhood it may be suspicious.

If in doubt, call 911. The smallest thing could be important.

If an incident occurs in the neighborhood don't leave the house unless absolutely necessary.

### **What about gun ownership?**

Owning a gun is only advisable if you are familiar and experienced with it's use. Otherwise it can only increase danger.

Local courses are available and advised for those wishing to maintain a gun for safety.

## **Setting up a Linden Ridge Community Watch Plan**

The important thing for an effective community watch in the neighborhood is to maintain good lines of communication and have a good exchange of information.

Regular meetings (as needed) to inform the community of up to date information and exchange information and issues of concern should be held.

We should create a neighborhood network of communication, such as through the block captain program, so information (particularly in the case of an incident) can be disseminated quickly and efficiently.

Vigilance is key.

We should inform all neighbors that the scheme is in place.

Lt stated that he could provide signs for the two entrances to the community as an excellent deterrent, as well as small notice stickers for homes.

He also gave our VP an information pack to help us begin our program.

The HOA would like to thank Lt Hoehlein for his time and valuable help in helping us begin this scheme, which can only add to the quality and safety of our community and all the homes and residents in it.