



A brief guide to citizen patrols

The Minneapolis Police Department believes that citizen patrols can be an appropriate extension of a block club. Having pairs of residents walking around the block at various times makes their watch force more visible. This is a more effective deterrent to crime.

SPONSORSHIP: We advise residents to run their patrol under the auspices of their neighborhood association or some other group which will monitor the patrol's activities and provide support.

MANAGEMENT OF THE CITIZEN PATROL: The block club(s) or other group that organizes the patrol is responsible for recruiting potential participants and screening them. The Minneapolis Police Department encourages patrol sponsors/organizers to do criminal history checks on those interested.

All patrollers should be thoroughly briefed before they begin patrolling. This should include mission, appropriate activities, limits of authority, proper reporting procedures, and personal safety information. The Minneapolis Police Department offers a four-hour workshop which provides the basic information needed to organize and run a citizen patrol. Contact your crime prevention specialist for more information.

The organizing group is responsible for the ongoing management of the patrol. This includes setting up the patrol schedule, monitoring the conduct of the patrollers, and informing the precinct of the activities of the patrol.

The Minneapolis Police Department and the City of Minneapolis do not license and are not responsible for the activity of citizen patrols or any loss or injury suffered as a part of their activities. Any liability incurred as a result of the patrol's activities is the responsibility of the individual patroller.

ROLE OF PATROLLERS: Patrollers create a positive, watchful presence. When they identify situations where crime is occurring or appears about to occur (suspicious activity), they call 911 and continue to monitor the situation until a squad arrives, updating the telecommunicator as necessary. Patrollers are not expected to physically intervene in dangerous situations, but must use their judgment to decide on appropriate action. The Minneapolis Police Department's citizen patrol workshop will provide guidance in assessing situations.

EQUIPMENT: For the safety of the patrollers, we advise them to carry either portable radios or cellular phones. This enables those on patrol to contact 911 quickly if they see an incident or need assistance.

WEAPONS: Carrying knives, guns, etc. is illegal. The only weapon patrollers can legally carry is tear gas ("Mace"). Screech alarms can also be carried.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/safe-staff-map.pdf to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/.



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737

Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700

Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500

Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800

Sign Language: TTY 612-673-2626

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.