



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCSO Launches Neighborhood Crime Watch Recruitment Initiative

Today, the Leon County Sheriff's Office unveiled new signage in neighborhoods actively participating in LCSO's neighborhood crime watch program. Sheriff Walt McNeil, along with Lafayette Oaks Neighborhood Crime Watch Captain, Melanie Jernigan, discussed the importance of communication between law enforcement and communities while encouraging inactive neighborhoods to get involved.

Neighborhood crime watch programs are crucial in learning how to identify and report suspicious activity while building stronger neighborhood networks. These community driven programs allow citizens to invest in the safety of their neighborhood and work with law enforcement to decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim. A well-organized neighborhood crime watch is proof that safeguards are in place to detect crime and report suspicious activity to law enforcement. A visible and meaningful neighborhood crime watch sign indicates a watchful community to deter criminal activity such as vehicle and home burglaries.

Requirements for LCSO's Neighborhood Crime Watch:

- Host an initial neighborhood meeting in conjunction with an LCSO representative (Can be done through Homeowners' Associations/Neighborhood Associations)
- Identify a neighborhood chairperson and block captains for each street
- Host annual meetings
- Create a resident communication plan (Social Media, Email, Group Text, etc.)

LCSO encourages inactive neighborhoods to learn more about this initiative by contacting Crime Prevention at (850) 606-3331.

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