# NOBLESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 135 SOUTH 9th STREET
## NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA 46060

*The mission for every member of this agency is to consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve and deliver a feeling of security, safety and quality services to members of our community.*

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take a minute or two of your time to introduce myself and explain **Community Policing (COPS) and The Noblesville Neighborhood Crime Watch Program**. To start, I am Lieutenant Cynthia Dukette-Rodriguez and have been with the Noblesville Police Department for over twenty years. During these years of service I have been a patrol officer, a school liaison officer, a detective and an administrator. When it comes to fighting crime, one effective thing that has been shown to help fight and solve crimes is when the community and police work together.

**What is Community Policing (COPS)**? COPS is a philosophy which involves strategic planning and problem solving tactics to help solve community problems, advance public safety, and reduce crime. Community Policing helps improve the quality of life by encouraging a partnership between the police and the citizens of the community. The police department and the community identify problems of crime and disorder and search for solutions to these problems by obtaining the community's assistance; this leads to greater understanding and cooperation. You, along will all citizens of our community, become active allies in the effort to enhance the safety and quality of neighborhoods which includes schools, businesses, playgrounds, etc. It is neighbors helping neighbors. It is the police and the community working together.

One of the best ways to help fight or solve crimes is a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program. The Neighborhood Crime Watch program is about neighbors watching out for each other's property and citizens aiding the police in combating crime within their communities by acting as extra eyes and ears of the police department. This is about you and your neighborhood helping each other. This program is intended to make citizens more vigilant, not to turn them into vigilantes. When you live and/or work in a particular locale, you come to know it. You and your neighbors are the best ones to know what is normal or unusual for your area. Many citizens in a neighborhood see crimes and suspicious activity and never call the police. Some feel afraid of retaliation by the criminal and some feel if it does not affect them directly it is not their problem. In a Neighborhood Crime Watch, neighbors make a commitment to each other to call the police when they see a crime or suspicious activity happening in their neighborhood. After they call the police, they notify other neighbors of the activity going on through their Neighborhood Watch program which then makes other neighbors aware of the activity. Additional neighbors can help in visually tracking the activity and/or suspect and provide other potential information and/or witnesses for the police. Those who are timid about getting involved will feel more secure by having other neighbors participating; or if they are more comfortable, then they may make an anonymous call to the police. The police then will notify the Neighborhood Watch. There is security in numbers and criminals feel intimidated by active crime prevention neighborhoods. Criminal activity in the neighborhood is not just your problem, but the neighborhood's problem and the community's problem. We need to get you and your neighborhood to get involved.

**The first step to starting a Neighborhood Crime Watch** is to have you or representatives from your neighborhood contact me, your Noblesville Police Department's Neighborhood Crime Watch Manager, to express your interest. I will explain and assist you in getting the program started in your neighborhood. This information can also be found on the city's website (www.cityofnoblesville.org).

I am enthusiastic about Community Policing and our Neighborhood Crime Watch Program and I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me at (317)776-6324, extension 1262 or by email crodriguez@noblesville.in.us.

Respectfully yours,



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