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### FRESNO POLICE AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



We are a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation engaging in communities all over the city of Fresno to build better, safer neighborhoods for everyone.

### EDUCATE \* EMPOWER \* ENGAGE



Neighborhood Watch is undoubtedly one of the oldest and most well-known crime prevention programs in history. While the modern-day concept of the program rose to prominence in the late 1960s, the roots of Neighborhood Watch can be traced all the way back to the days of colonial settlements, when night watchmen patrolled the streets. The modern version of the Neighborhood Watch Program was developed around the country by law enforcement agencies who were looking for a crime prevention program that would incorporate resident involvement. In 1972, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) took the concept a step further by seeking funding to make the program a national initiative. Thanks to a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the National Neighborhood Watch Program was started.

Fresno Police & Neighborhood Watch started from a grassroots effort in 1970 and was a thriving organization until the early 2000's. Time and age took its toll on leadership and the pandemic all but shut the program down. Founder Roz Clark kept the flame lit during those trying times until her well-deserved retirement began September 2021. New leadership went to work swiftly to rebuild the foundation, refocus the vision, restore the mission and build on the strong historical foundation that Roz created more than 50 years ago.

When Chief Paco Balderrama came to Fresno, he was a huge supporter of the program and enlisted DC Burke Farrah to work with the organization and Roz to recruit like-minded individuals to carry the group into the future. The result was three talented and determined women and one man, hungry to rebuild the program. The City Council then invested historic funding into the organization to relaunch the program city wide. Today the group is poised to be as strong as ever and build a strong partnership with Law Enforcement and all members of our diverse community.

We have restored the Mission of the Fresno Police & Neighborhood Watch organization to Educate, Empower and Engage residents to collaborate with one another and city agencies to improve the safety and quality of life for all people within our community.

We all deserve to live, work, and play in a place we feel safe.

Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch



Makefresnosafer.org

contactFPNW@gmail.com



#### Fresno Police Non-Emergency

#### 559-621-7000

Online reporting www.fresno.gov/police





Emergency-Life threatening or crime in progress

Dial - 911

**Code enforcement issues** 

#### Dial 311

Or use the FresGo App



The Torch Has Passed



Executive Director Mary Haskin was born and raised in Fresno and started 5 years ago asking the question, "Do we have a Neighborhood Watch in my area?" Fast forward to today and she is the new leader of the new Fresno Police & Neighborhood Watch group. If you are asking yourself that question, go to makefresnosafer.org and learn how to get involved in your area to make all of Fresno safer for everyone.

Mary has taken over the amazing work that Roz Clark started over 50 years ago and is bringing the association into a very bright future collaborating with community members, volunteers, and the Fresno Police Department.

The efforts of The Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch are critical to making our community safer and your valuable donations are needed to provide outreach and support to many in our community. Despite never-before-seen allocation of funding from the Fresno City Council, we still need support from generous donors like you to help in each of the city's five districts.

If you would like to donate to our non-profit, please click below: Donate Now



Checks should be made payable to Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch or FPNW. Tax ID 77-0003354. We will never ask for gift cards or other funds over the phone. Please make a secure donation via makefresnosafer.org or mail to 2323 Mariposa St, Fresno, CA 93721 Attn FPNW.

## THE ROZ CLARK AWARD

In honor of Roz Clark

FPNW Founder Roz Clark started Neighborhood Watch in Fresno in 1970, 2 years before it was a National Initiative across the United States. Roz and Fred Clark were trailblazers and worked tirelessly to support their community and the Fresno Police Department. They owned a small apartment complex on Glenn Avenue and one day, a young girl came running and screaming into the courtyard from something that scared her in the neighborhood. Roz jumped into action having been raised by her own "village" as a child. She wanted to do something to help. Thus, Roz's relationship with the Police Department and City of Fresno began. She worked at the IRS, so she started the non-profit Fresno Police & Neighborhood Watch Association. Her grassroots efforts built a thriving organization. The Clark's efforts with neighbors and other community partner organizations accomplished many remarkable things. Many Neighborhood Watch signs in the city were installed by Fred Clark. The Clarks jumped into action anytime there was a major emergency, standing ready to lend a hand or support the department.

"That's the way I look at it. It is not my city...it is OUR city. It is our city and whatever goes on here, I don't care what it is, one way or the other it affects us. Anytime you can do something for your community and make changes, good changes, that's the best thing you can do for your community because those people that you live with, are part of your family, part of your community."

As with anything, time and age took their toll. Fred Clark passed away several years ago, but Roz carried on. She was the driving force of Neighborhood Watch, and she dedicated over half of her life in service to the Fresno Police Department and her community. This past March, she was honored in a ceremony befitting her service to Fresno. It was a reunion of sorts with dignitaries in attendance. She was picked up from her home and had a police escort to be greeted and escorted into the venue by Mayor Jerry Dyer and McGruff the Crime Dog. She was crowned with a Tiara as she was Queen for the day. She was celebrated by many who love her and her remarkable service.

The City of Fresno is indebted to Roz for her lifelong service. We wish her well in retirement.



Left to right. Retired FPD Officer Kurt Smith, Roz Clark, Mayor Jerry Dyer. All were instrumental in the group in the 90's and beyond Roz & Fred Clark





THIS SECTION WILL BE A HIGHLIGHT OF WHO IS WHO IN NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS THE CITY OF FRESNO WHO EMBODY ROZ CLARK'S LEGACY

#### How do you help your neighbor?

Brandon in Northwest Fresno helps his neighbor Maxine who is a widow and lives alone. She splits her time between her home in Mariposa and her home in Northwest Fresno. Brandon always keeps a close eye on Maxine's house when she is home and away and has even adjusted his security cameras to cover some of Maxine's property. Brandon is also sure to bring in her trash cans and grab any notices or mail left on her door that may make bad guys think her home is vacant and therefore an easy target. Brandon has also added security cameras to his home to cover the streets and two community mailboxes near his home. Trivial things like this are a fantastic way to watch out for your neighbors. Ask yourself how you can be a better neighbor.

# **DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

#### NORTHEAST



The Maplewood Homeowner's Association on N. Backer Ave held an extraordinarily successful Neighbors Night Out event just weeks after having Mary Haskin and Lt. Larry Bowlan talk to them about making their community safer. The event included a potluck with lots of goodies and they were honored to host Chief Paco Balderrama, Captain Jennifer Horsford, Members of NE Bike Patrol, the NE District Safety Team (DST) and members of the U.S. Attorney's Office! The children loved taking pictures with the officers and getting their junior Fresno Police badge stickers.

#### NORTHWEST



In Northwest, a group of 50-60 neighbors came together in the Grantland & Shaw Area. Food and community play a huge role in this neighborhood, and we were not disappointed. For our first Neighbors Night Out, a potluck was had along with a local taco truck and Kona Ice. The Kids loved the Craft table donated by Create Studio Fresno, soccer & football games, several parents pitched in for a bounce house and great conversations among new and familiar faces. We believe a connected neighborhood is a safer one. The night was rounded out by a visit from Officers & our own Deputy Chief Burke Farrah. It was a good day.

#### CENTRAL



Manchester Park neighbors began organizing their group 5 years ago. The goal was to involve as many of the 325+ households as possible. Communication and cooperation have been key to their success. They have had a few significant crime related issues and collaborated with the police department as well as Code Enforcement and their City Councilman. The neighborhood has diligently been working with Fresno City Parcs Administration to revitalize Manchester Park. They started communicating through the Next-door App and have shifted to group texting. Many neighbors feel safer and have been able to meet neighbors on different streets. There was a record 70+ in attendance for the Neighbor's Night Out event.

#### SOUTHEAST



This Meadowood development Near Clinton and Armstrong is approximately 6 years old but is already way ahead of the game. A private Facebook group page was created for the neighborhood as homes were being purchased and it is already at over 170 members. This made it easier for the neighborhood to begin communicating and getting to know each other. They share important announcements, security alerts, garage doors left open, strange cars or activity and genuinely look out for each other. They look forward to block parties and the chance to meet new neighbors.

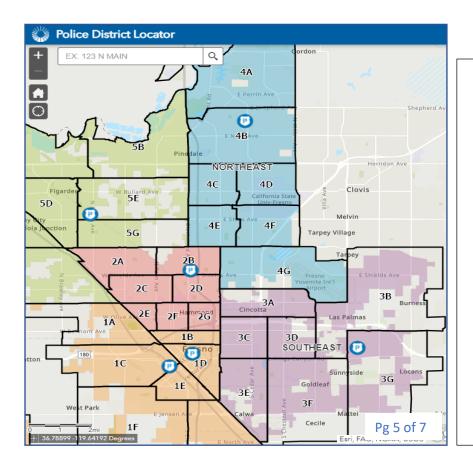
#### SOUTHWEST



Southwest Officer McCarty heard that some of the Gaston football players needed new cleats, so he got their sizes and went right to ordering them. On September 13, Captain Landon and Officers handed out the new cleats to Gaston football players and some were even school colors!

#### Fresno Police District Map

https://www.fresno.gov/police/policing-district-locator/





#### Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch Mission

It is the mission of the Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch Organization to EDUCATE, EMPOWER and ENGAGE residents to collaborate with one another and city agencies to improve the safety and quality of life for the people within our community.



District One Southwest Captain Landon

District Two Central Captain Beckwith

District Three Southeast Captain Ramos

District Four Northeast Captain Horsford

District Five Northwest Captain Martinez

## **CAPTAIN'S CORNER**



Message From Fresno Police

#### **Chief Paco Balderrama**

I am proud to say our partnership with the Fresno Police & Neighborhood Watch is strong as ever and poised to increase safety in our community. This organization truly empowers and engages our community members by building and strengthening relationships between law enforcement, community members, organizations, and businesses. Crime prevention efforts are more fruitful when we work to reduce crime and improve our communities as a cohesive team. I encourage anyone who cares about our city to get involved! Join the established Neighborhood Watch group in your community or create one of your own neighborhoods. Let's continue building a safer Fresno together!

### <u>Upcoming</u>

Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch Community Calendar



With the holidays here, it is the time of year that property crimes rise. Make sure you are not a victim by not leaving valuables in plain view in your vehicle. Thieves like easy targets, where they know they can get in and out quickly with a good hall of items so do not give them that opportunity. Make sure your doors are locked and purchases are hidden, preferably in the trunk. When at shopping centers, be aware of your surroundings and not buried in your mobile devices. Try to park in well-lit areas when available and walk with a friend or family member if you can. If something or someone does not look right, avoid it, and move away from the situation.

If you are going to be out of town at all, Do Not put that information on social media, selfies can wait until after you are home. Do let a trustworthy neighbor or friend know, so that they can keep an eye on your property.

**Community Safety Tips.** 

**CALL THE POLICE WHEN:** 

\*You observe suspicious-acting person(s)

\*You observe suspicious vehicle(s)

\*Criminal Activity is or has occurred.

Remember: If something does not look right, it probably isn't. Notify the police, security personnel or management! When parking your vehicle in any parking lot or at your residence, remember the following vehicle security tips: An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. Close all windows, be sure the vent or wind-wing windows are shut tight and locked. When you park your car, REMOVE ALL VALUABLES, and take them with you. Always lock your car, even if you are making a quick stop like the gas station, ATM, etc. If your car has an alarm, use it. During evening/nighttime hours, park in well-lit areas.

#### "SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING!"

VICE PRESIDENT GLENNA GATES TREASURER STEVE NOURIAN

YOUR FPNW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

**MARY HASKIN** 

**INTERIM PRESIDENT** 

**ELISHA HENDERSON** 

SECRETARY

**MIKKI EVERETT** 

**DIRECTOR OF MEDIA & MARKETING** 

**MANNIE CAMARENA** 

#### YOUR FPD CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS

Central: CSO Danny Guzman Danny.Guzman@fresno.gov 559-621-6244

Northwest: CSO Marily Rendon Marily.Rendon@fresno.gov 559-621-6530

Northeast: CSO Kendall Cardoza <u>kendallann.cardoza@fresno.gov</u> 559-621-6425

Southeast: CSO Beth Wicklander <u>Elizabeth.wicklander@fresno.gov</u> 559-621-6308

Southwest: CSO Christina Hoemberg <u>Christina.hoemberg@fresno.gov</u> 559-621-6110

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