

FRESNO POLICE & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



COMMUNITY NEWLETTER

EDUCATE * EMPOWER * ENGAGE How do I start a Neighborhood Watch?

FEBRUARY 2023

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The first step is to get to know your neighbors!

Do you know your neighbors? The foundation of any successful neighborhood group is a good relationship. The people that live in your community are probably just as concerned as you are. Take the first step! You can start by simply smiling and waving when walking or driving by. The next step is to say "Hello" if you are comfortable. Introduce yourself and share what street you live on, and that you are interested in getting to know your neighbors. It only takes one person to start a chain reaction of building community. Everyone deserves to live and work in a place they feel safe. Building a Good Neighbor Network is the foundation of a connected neighborhood. (See page seven of the newsletter for Good Neighbor Network.)

As you meet neighbors, share your desire to build the Good Neighbor Network for your neighborhood and what you can do, with their help, to make the neighborhood better for everyone. Crime can happen anywhere from the inner-city streets to the expensive gated communities. It's up to all of us to make Fresno safer. We are cognizant that some communities feel safe with police and others do not. Our desire is to stand in the gap and be a trust building liaison between the community and the police department. We will assist the community in education and communication with each other and various city agencies.

Once you have established a group, no matter how small, representatives from Neighborhood Watch will give your group a presentation on how you can protect your community by working together. If you are comfortable with representation from the Police Department, we will invite them to the initial meeting. If you are not comfortable, we will work with your neighborhood until you feel comfortable to engage with a community service officer who is dedicated to crime prevention in your area. Later in this newsletter we will introduce you to the 5 Fresno Police District Crime Prevention Officers (See pages 4 & 5). If your neighborhood is not yet registered as an active group, or you would like to sign up for a group please register on our website <u>makefresnosafer.org</u> or contact your district officer directly depending on your comfort level.

Technology provides you with many ways to communicate with your group while still maintaining privacy. This can include private social media groups, texting apps, email, and more. Find what works best for you and your group to communicate problems in your neighborhood.

Building Relationships Since 1970 HELP CREATE SAFE, BEAUTIFUL, AND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS Pg 1 of 7

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch



Makefresnosafer.org

contactFPNW@gmail.com



Fresno Police Non-Emergency

559-621-7000

Online reporting www.fresno.gov/police



TIP HOTLINE 559-498-STOP CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP

Emergency-Life threatening or crime in progress.

Dial – 9-1-1

Code enforcement issues

Dial 3-1-1

Or use the FresGo App



Package Thefts



Package thefts are one of the most talked about and common crimes in our neighborhoods. There are many ways to prevent or minimize thefts of your packages. Here are a few options.

- 1. Try to schedule the deliveries when you know someone will be home or when a trusted neighbor can grab the package for you.
- 2. Have the package delivered to a secure lockbox like Amazon pickup locations, or you can also have the package held at the carrier office with Fed Ex or UPS.
- 3. If possible, have packages delivered to your work or office if you have permission from your employer.
- 4. You can purchase a smart garage opener compatible with Amazon Key that allows the Amazon delivery driver to securely deliver your package inside your garage.
- 5. If these are not options and you must have a package delivered to your home, consider utilizing a large plant or other object that can keep a delivered package out of view of passersby. Most thefts are crimes of opportunity. If the thief cannot see it from the street, they will be less likely to approach. Try to add a note for the delivery driver advising them where to place the package upon delivery.

Click here to buy an Amazon key compatible device on Amazon.



As always cameras or video doorbells are great for identifying the people committing thefts after the fact. The videos can be shared with your neighbors and/or law enforcement to help identify them. No matter how small, it is important that thefts are reported. Ring doorbells and cameras are great tools. A more affordable option is Wyze brand cameras or video doorbells. These are available at <u>www.wyze.com</u> or through Amazon in limited models. Both Ring and Wyze offer replacement of stolen doorbells with a police report



THE ROZ CLARK AWARD

In honor of Roz Clark

Northwest Fresno

Jim Lloyd embodies the spirit of Roz Clark in his neighborhood!

The Country Villa Estates neighborhood recently hosted a food drive to help with food insecurity in our community. "We gathered at a local residence and had donations of both monetary and goods from over 70 neighbors. As neighbors joined together, they enjoyed a bowl of soup and/or a cup of homemade chili along with an assortment of breads and treats. In the end, over \$1100 and over 300 pounds of food was gratefully received by the Central California Food Bank."-Jim Lloyd

Plans for additional Northwest neighborhood events for 2023 are in the works.







THIS SECTION IS A HIGHLIGHT OF OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS THE CITY OF FRESNO WHO EMBODY ROZ CLARK'S LEGACY

Good Neighbor Tips!

- Look out for elderly people in your neighborhood. Offer assistance in an area of need.
- Identify vacant homes so you can keep an eye out for squatters.
- Identify street lighting issues (light out/lacking) and report THROUGH FresGo or call 311.
- Homeless Encampments and illegal dumping can also be reported to FresGo or call 311.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

NORTHEAST



Community Services Officer II Kendall Cardoza

Kendall Cardoza joined the Fresno Police Department as a Community Services officer in November of 2021. Recognizing Kendall's focus and energy, the PD quickly promoted her to Crime Prevention Specialist, and then again to Community Services Officer II. Kendall formerly served as an animal control officer as part of an investigative team handling animal neglect and cruelty cases.

An energizing force in the community, Kendall concentrates on EDUCATION for the betterment of the community and runs a non-profit to raise funds and awareness for ALS. Her passion is helping people and building community!

NORTHWEST



Community Services Officer II Marily Rendon

Marily Rendon of the Northwest Policing district is closing in on two years as that district's Crime Prevention Community Services Officer. Marily's choice to join the PD was an inevitable one, as she tells us that she always knew that she would be an officer someday.

Having lived most of her life in the valley, Marily considers herself a native and has dug into the community with the enthusiasm that only comes with a strong Valley identity. Marily's passion for community translates into passion for engagement as she parlays interest and commitment into new NW groups.

Marily is close to completing her Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and plans on applying this education to further her career with the FPD. Between work and studies, Marily enjoys watching and cheering her younger brother at his soccer games and hunting for bargains!

CENTRAL



Community Services Officer II Danny Guzman

Defined by his commitment to community and family, Navy Veteran Danny Guzman serves the Central Policing District as their Crime Prevention Community Services Officer. Danny's fourteen years in the Navy's Military police, followed by a role as a health care supervisor provided great training in customer service, problem solving and conflict resolution.

Since joining the Fresno Police Department. Danny has nearly doubled the size of his Neighborhood Watch members/groups and is focused on education, empowerment, and engagement of many more in years to come.

Danny and wife Maricruz have three sons and enjoy road trips, sports, and cheering 49'ers, Giants and Lakers on to well-deserved victories.

SOUTHEAST



Community Services Officer II Beth Wicklander Beth Wicklander, a former 30-year veteran of the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office-Bureau of Investigation, joined the FPD three years ago as a Southeast District Crime Prevention CSO.

Focused and detail oriented, Beth's background in technical, legal document and investigative support lends itself well to her new role. Her passion is community education, and Beth pursues this angle of the FPNW mission with an unparalleled conviction. Beth is a married, mother of two, and fan of sports. Beth spends her spare time reading and hanging out with her five rescue dogs.

Beth says you can never have too many dogs or too many active FPNW groups!

SOUTHWEST

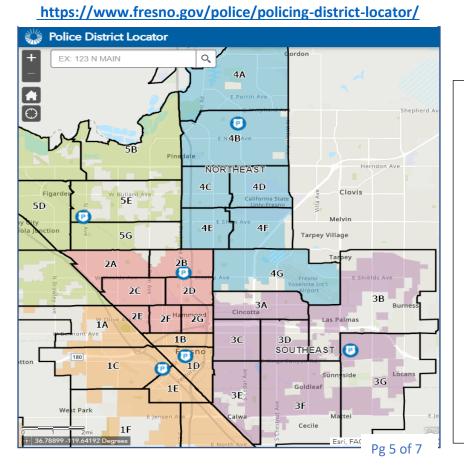


Community Services Officer II Christina Hoemberg

Community Services Officer Christina Hoemberg has served the Southwest District since August of 2021 and has quickly found her niche in ENGAGEMENT with the community. Working closely with community members, local organizations, and Fresno Police Department units, Christina applies energy and creative thinking to bring people together and make positive relationships happen.

Of the many activities Christina organizes, the recent 2022 Santa's Village reached nearly 1350 citizens and suppliers. Activities included photos with Santa/Mrs. Claus, as well as other characters, gifts, hot chocolate, hand dipped hot dogs, giant cookies. and kettle corn.

If you don't know what district you are in, you can go to the map link below and enter your address to find out.



Fresno Police District Map



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

Michael.Landon@fresno.gov

559-621-6101

District Two

Central

Captain Beckwith

Rob.Beckwith@fresno.gov

559-621-6201

District Three

Southeast

Captain Ramos

David.Ramos@fresno.gov

559-621-6301

District Four

Northeast

Captain Horsford

Jennifer.Horsford@fresno.gov

559-621-6401

District Five

Northwest

Captain Martinez

Anthony.Martinez@fresno.gov

559-621-6501

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Captain Jennifer Horsford, NE District Commander

The goal of a neighborhood watch group is to build connections with your neighbors and make your community safer. To do that successfully, it is important to be watchful of activities in your neighborhood and report suspicious activity. Not everything that you may feel is suspicious warrants calling the police. A person just walking through the neighborhood that you do not recognize does not need a police response. A person who is looking into vehicles or walking around a neighbor's house would warrant a call to the police.

The goal is to help you become a good witness for the officers. We do not recommend going out and confronting people because it may put you in danger. The best way to help is to get a good description of any people and vehicles involved. Things you want to look for are apparent race, gender, height, weight, hair color/style, facial hair, clothing description, and visible scars, marks, or tattoos. When it comes to clothing, we are looking for the type of clothing (jacket, hoodie, t-shirt, jeans, shorts, etc.) colors, and logos. Things that stand out and would make it easier for officer to find them. For vehicles, we are looking for the make, model, color, and distinct features. Things about the car that makes it stand out like body damage, stickers, missing or damaged parts, etc. Getting the license plate would be helpful, but not if it puts you in danger. We will also ask for direction of travel. You don't have to know the direction, but it is helpful. Otherwise, you can just say the street they are on and the street they are walking towards or away from.

When you call dispatch, they are going to ask you lots of questions. Though this may feel unnecessary as you just want officers to get there, it is very important. The information they are collecting is being added to the call and going directly to the responding officers. The main thing to understand is that while they are collecting the information from you, officers can already be on their way. The dispatcher can update the call while the officers are on their way. They are asking the questions, so the officers know who they are looking for and how to properly respond to the call. They may not need to have the full history of previous calls/incidents and will ask you to be specific to what is happening today. This is to make sure we are responding correctly to what is happening today and that is not information they need. That information should be provided to the officers responding to the call.

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BRANDON WATERS

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

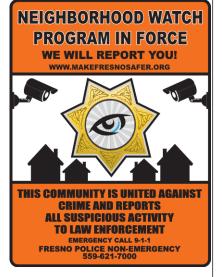
Southwest: CSO Christina Hoemberg <u>Christina.hoemberg@fresno.gov</u> 559-621-6110

<u>Upcoming</u>

Fresno Police and Neighborhood Watch Community Calendar



The new and improved Neighborhood Watch signs are coming!



These new signs will eventually replace outdated fading signs and will be available to newly established and active groups that meet certain criteria. City crews will survey the neighborhood for all approved locations for installation and we will work with the neighborhood regarding logistics and potential shared cost.

Neighborhoods that do not have signs must first sign up to form a group. Our representatives will help your neighborhood through the process of building community.

Please visit our website to sign up today.

Good Neighbor Network

A group of caring and diligent neighbors are invested in the safety and maintenance of their neighborhood. The Network develops an internal communication system in various methods. Older neighbors are used to a phone call or visit, and younger generations are tech savvy. This presents challenges when only using one method to communicate. Consider your neighbors and their needs. Your neighborhood may need to utilize more than one way to communicate (visit, phone call, text, email or mobile app.) Perhaps younger neighbors can "adopt" an elder in their neighborhood to make sure they are aware of announcements or alerts.

Building connections develops relationships that can form friendships. Through that process, neighbors will naturally look out for each other. Being mindful of things that look out of place or perhaps unfamiliar strangers to your neighborhood and communicating with each other doesn't always lead to a call to the police department. When you see a stranger, what do you ask yourself? Assess before you assume. Pay attention long enough to determine whether they are a legitimate visitor/passerby or someone in suspicious behavior. Communicate with neighbors and call the Police if necessary. Learning low level strategies through Neighborhood Watch presentations and Block Captain workshops will help your neighborhood develop your own Good Neighbor Network.