



# Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse

**“Crime Prevention through Education”**

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*Serving Syracuse Since 1988*  
*Newsletter: Winter 2022*

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### Online Crime Prevention and Education Videos

As Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse continues to look for new and innovative ways to promote and expand our program we felt increasing our social media footprint would be a valuable way to achieve this goal. The two platforms we felt would benefit not only our members but all city residents is YouTube and Facebook. By expanding how we use these programs our vision was to create a series of online “Crime Prevention and Education Videos” where anyone with Internet access can view them at their leisure or they could be used at community meetings as a way to share valuable information. The objective of these videos is to help educate viewers on a variety of topics and techniques they can use to help reduce crime and quality of life concerns. These videos include:

- Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse Promotional Video
- Getting Involved in Syracuse Neighborhood Watch
- How to file an EServe and Tele-Serve Police Report
- Fireworks - Legal vs. Illegal, Syracuse Police Department
- The Importance of Calling 911, Syracuse Police Department
- How 911 Calls are Processed and Dispatched, Onondaga County Emergency Communications, 911 Center

Since launching this program we’ve been very excited with the results and feedback from our members. As we evaluate the YouTube and Facebook data we found more than half of our videos received over 800 views in a short period of time. This data also tells us our new initiative has been well received and one we will continue to expand. In addition, we’ve also started posting weekly Crime Prevention and Education “Safety Tips” on our Facebook page. These tips are directly related to crime trends, discussions at NW meetings, and feedback from the Syracuse Police Department. Please remember to follow us on social media for future videos and weekly safety tips.

Subscribe to our

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~ Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse ~  
~ Syracuse Neighborhood Watch ~



## **A Message from Mayor Ben Walsh**

As the pandemic continues to disrupt almost every aspect of our daily lives, your Syracuse Police Department (SPD) is working each and every day to respond to the challenges facing Syracuse neighborhoods. The Department has not only worked to reduce crime, but it has also worked to push the boundaries of transparency, accountability and public engagement. I know Chief Buckner and his team at SPD join me in saying thank you to the members of Neighborhood Watch Groups citywide for your support and for helping make the city a safer place.

### **Safer Neighborhoods**

Syracuse Police recently reported the year-end crime statistics for the City. Overall, crime was down 9% for the year, largely driven by a 13% decline in property crime. Violent crime, however, was up by 2% in 2021 and continues to be a major focus of the department. The number of homicides in the City was 29, down from 31 homicides in 2020. The CompStat crime reports for last year can be found at [syracusepolice.org](http://syracusepolice.org) and include detailed reports by sector of the City. In 2022, the Department will be adopting a new reporting system based on the state crime data reporting approach. These reports will also be available weekly on the SPD website.

### **Making Connection**

We made major progress in 2021 on the implementation of the Syracuse Police Department Police Athletic and Activities League (PAL), which offers mentorship, community service, athletic, recreational, enrichment and educational opportunities that ultimately aid in the prevention of juvenile crime and violence. To date, PAL has accumulated 1000 youth participants from diverse backgrounds across the City. From community events, to toy giveaways and speaking engagements with nationally renowned inspirational figures, PAL is helping to connect law enforcement with our youth in meaningful and impactful ways. I look forward to what the future holds for this program.

### **The Next Generation of Policing**

This past December, SPD graduated Class #22. It's the fourth class of officers to graduate since I've been Mayor and the largest class of new officers in the recent history of the department. They will continue to strengthen the department's patrol capacity and help to keep our city safe. These graduates are part of a special class, one that has increased diversity in our police department and made SPD more representative of the people it serves: 18% are People of Color and 21% identify as women. Seven of the most recent graduates are already Syracuse residents, and the next class which begins in February, will all call Syracuse home under our new city residency requirement.

### **Enhancing Safety Measures**

In addition, we've made safety investments through to increase ShotSpotter gunshot detection, location and forensic analysis by an additional 2.14 square miles. With the expansion – which goes live this winter -- the system will include most of the city's north side. New federal funding has also gone to repairing and replacing COPS cameras across the city.

As we push on in these efforts, I would like to thank Tony Borelli for his continued advocacy for a safer Syracuse. Thanks to Tony's dedication coupled with your devotion as resolute Neighborhood Watch Group members, even in extraordinary times, we're making progress to better neighborhoods citywide.

Sincerely, Mayor Ben Walsh



### **A Message from Chief Kenton Buckner**

Greetings from myself and everyone here at the Syracuse Police Department. I hope that your holiday season was filled with joy and time was well spent with family and friends. With a new year upon us, I would first like to recognize all the hard work by our Officers and the civilian employees over the last year. 2021 was a challenging year for the SPD. In the midst of a global pandemic, significant changes were made to the organization. The areas include, Right to Know law implementation, body camera deployment, and improving the relationship with the CRB just to name a few. All of this took place while dealing with historically low staffing levels and a rise in violent crime that has been seen here locally and across the nation. Even with all of the challenges mentioned, Officers responded to over 60,000 calls for service. I am proud of the work we have done and look forward to continuing these efforts into 2022. The Syracuse Police Department continues to make community outreach and connection a priority. The police department either hosted or participated in over 140 community events this year. The most notable events being National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop, Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway and Shop with a Cop. Community and police relations is a priority of ours and we look forward to continuing connectivity efforts throughout 2022.

Thank you!

Kenton Buckner, Chief of Police  
Syracuse Police Department

### **Syracuse Police Department Staffing Changes for 2022**

As we enter 2022, Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse would like to inform our members of some changes that occurred within the Syracuse Police Department. These changes include:

#### **Bureaus**

- Deputy Chief D. McGork - Formerly from the Investigations Bureau will command the Uniform Bureau.
- Deputy Chief R. Trudell - Formerly from the Uniform Bureau will command the Investigations Bureau.

#### **Uniform Bureau**

- Captain J. Milana - Newly promoted Captain to command the North District within the Uniform Bureau.
- Acting Captain R. Bowering - Formerly in the Investigations Bureau, to now command the Southeast District within the Uniform Bureau.
- Captain S. Lynch - Will remain in the Uniform Bureau, now commanding the Southwest District from the Southeast District.

On behalf of our members, we look forward to working with the administrative staff in their new assignments.



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### Question & Answer

***Question: How has Covid-19 changed the Neighborhood Watch program?***

***Answer:*** Over the past two years several changes have been made to the Neighborhood Watch program as a result of Covid-19. While Covid-19 has definitely impacted our lives and our program we believe some of the changes we implemented can continue to benefit our program as we move forward. These changes, which are now a permanent part of our program include:

- Switching Neighborhood Watch groups who met monthly to an every other month meeting schedule.
- Offering Neighborhood Watch groups the option to meet virtually.
- Offering Neighborhood Watch groups with similar Target Areas the option to meet together.
- Neighborhood Watch members now have the option to get valuable crime prevention information and tips through online Crime Prevention and Education videos.
- Neighborhood Watch members can receive weekly safety tips by following us on Facebook.



**Safety Tips ~ Meeting Schedule ~ Updates ~ Video Links**  
**[www.syracuseneighborhoodwatch.org](http://www.syracuseneighborhoodwatch.org)**