



BLOOMFIELD POLICE

COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SAMUEL A. DEMAIO

Lieutenant Naomi Zepeda
nzepeda@bloomfieldnjpd.com



Officer Yesenia Aponte
yaponte@bloomfieldnjpd.com

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH!

- Hold regular meetings to help residents get to know each other and to decide upon program strategies and activities. Remember to include the Community Policing Unit in on your meetings. They will come with ideas, pamphlets and crime statistics personalized for your area.
 - Canvass door-to-door to recruit members. You can distribute flyers and introduce yourself and your goals.
 - Ask people who seldom leave their homes to be “window watchers,” looking out for children and reporting any unusual activities in the neighborhood.
 - Translate crime and drug prevention materials into Spanish or other languages needed by non-English speakers in your community. If necessary, have a translator at meetings.
 - Gather the facts about crime in your neighborhood. Check police reports, conduct victimization surveys, and learn residents’ perceptions about crimes. Often, residents’ opinions are not supported by facts, and accurate information can reduce the fear of crime. The Bloomfield Life and The Independent Press post a weekly crime report. You can access this information via the newspaper itself or through their Facebook page.
 - Physical conditions like abandoned cars or overgrown vacant lots contribute to crime. Sponsor cleanups, encourage residents to beautify the area, and ask them to turn on outdoor lights at night.
 - Work with small businesses to repair rundown storefronts, clean up littered streets, and create jobs for young people.
 - Emphasize that Watch groups are not vigilantes and should not assume the role of the police.
 - Their duty is to ask neighbors to be alert, observant, and caring—and to report suspicious activity or crimes immediately to the police.
- To report a crime, you can either call the direct number to Bloomfield Police Communications 973-680-4141 or dial 911

**When you see something suspicious, call the police
immediately!**

When reporting suspicious activity, it is helpful to give the most accurate description possible, including:

- Your location
- What do you see that appears suspicious?
- Description of actor(s) - race, height, weight, clothing description
- Description of vehicle – make, model, color
- Plate number of vehicle
- Direction of flight
- Any weapons shown

Be prepared to stay on the line with the dispatcher until the officer arrives!

If there is not a Neighborhood Watch group already set up in your area and you would like to volunteer, Please contact the Community Policing Unit.

Thank you,

Lt. Naomi Zepeda