

Community Focus Statement C: Improve public and equestrian safety within Muscoy.

Action Statement C.1: Increase participation in the neighborhood watch program throughout the community.

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Benchmark: Neighborhood watch programs are formed for at least 50 percent of the Muscoy residential area and include a variety of residents with established leadership for each program and regularly scheduled meetings.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$500–\$10,000 per year



Photo source: Flickr, [Eva Luedin](#)

A neighborhood watch program is a way to help keep Muscoy safe by involving community members in crime prevention efforts. Participating residents keep watch on the neighbors and the neighborhood, reducing crime by decreasing situations where people are able to commit a crime without being observed. Community members would also promptly report suspicious activities to law enforcement officials, who can intervene and potentially stop a crime from occurring. Muscoy is a community of mostly single-family houses on large lots, allowing a large area of the community to be monitored by residents as part of their daily activities. By making it clear to potential lawbreakers that the neighborhood is on lookout and suspicious behavior is likely to be reported, the neighborhood becomes less appealing to criminals. The goal of a neighborhood watch program is not to arrest criminals or change their behavior, but to reduce the number of situations where a crime could happen.

Studies find that neighborhood watch programs can lead to significant decreases in crime, but to be effective, the program must involve a wide segment of community members who are willing to make a long-term effort to keep the program running. There is a neighborhood watch group in Muscoy; however, it only includes a small portion of the community. Because neighborhood watch is a program run through the National Crime Prevention Council, there is the opportunity for other neighborhood watch groups to be founded in Muscoy so that a wider range of community members can partake. Groups could be started in specific residential areas or could be as small as everyone living on a street beginning a neighborhood watch group.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department can assist new neighborhood watch groups by providing critical resources and training for program participants. Participants can host events, workshops, or other neighborhood events to increase their visibility in Muscoy. Signs posted around the community can also help raise awareness of the program and may deter potential lawbreakers. The more residents in Muscoy taking part in neighborhood watch groups, the safer the community will become.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Conduct outreach activities and recruit diverse groups of residents to serve on several neighborhood watch committees. Conduct a kickoff, informational meeting to determine interest, assign volunteers, identify areas of concern in the community, and perform other appropriate start-up activities.	Champion with Community groups, homeowner's associations, Sheriff's Department	Years 1 – 3	National Crime Prevention Council: Starting a Neighborhood Watch http://www.ncpc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety/neighborhood-watch US Department of Justice: Neighborhood Watch Manual https://www.bja.gov/Publications/NSA_NW_Manual.pdf
2. For each neighborhood where a program will be established, select a resident to serve as the neighborhood watch chair.	Neighborhood watch committees	Years 1 – 3	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/home.aspx
3. Solicit volunteers from the community to support neighborhood watch activities. Advertise neighborhood watch groups in both English and Spanish.	Neighborhood watch committees	Years 1 – 3	San Bernardino County Public Works (for sign installation) http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/home.aspx
4. Establish partnerships with the Sheriff's Department for training, information sharing, and resources.	Neighborhood watch committees	Years 1 – 3	National Neighborhood Watch
5. Post signs notifying people of a neighborhood watch program.	Neighborhood watch committees	Years 1 – 3	
6. Conduct regular training sessions, information sharing, and meetings.	Neighborhood watch committees	Quarterly	