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## How To Reduce Crime In Your Neighborhood

By MalaMaal.com

### How To Reduce Crime In Your Neighborhood

While we don't like to talk about it – or even think about it – crime is on the increase in America, and throughout the world. The number of burglars, muggers, auto thieves, robbers, purse snatchers, etc., is growing at an alarming rate. Now you, as a resident, working with neighbors can help reduce the crime rate.

How? By organizing and/or joining a neighborhood program in which you and your neighbors get together to learn how to protect yourselves, your family, your home and your property. Working together, you can get the criminals off your block and out of your area.

There's safety in numbers and power through working with a group. You'll get to know your neighbors better, and working with them you can reduce crime, develop a more united community, provide an avenue of communications between police and citizens, establish on-going crime prevention techniques in your neighborhood, and renew citizen interest in community activity.

"Citizens Safety Projects" are set up to help you do this. It is a joint effort between private citizens and local police. Such programs have been started all over the country. Maybe one already exists in your community.

These organizations don't require frequent meetings (once a month or so). They don't ask anyone to take personal risks to prevent crime. They leave the responsibility for catching criminals where it belongs – with the police. This is NOT a "vigilante" group:

These groups gather citizens together to learn crime prevention from local authorities. You cooperate with your neighbors to report suspicious activities in the neighborhood, to keep an eye on homes when the resident is away, and to keep everyone in the area mindful of the standard precautions for property and self that should always be taken. Criminals avoid neighborhoods where such groups exist.

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Through cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, some of the things you will learn – and all free – are:

1.What to do in an emergency. 2.How to best identify a suspicious person. 3.How to identify a vehicle being used in a suspected criminal activity. 4.Signs to watch out for before entering a house or apartment that may be in the process of being burglarized. 5.What to do in case of injury. 6.What to do about suspicious people loitering on your street. 7.How to identify stolen merchandise. 8.How to recognize auto theft in progress. 9.How to protect your house or apartment. 10.How to recognize a burglary in progress. 11.How to protect yourself and family – and much more.

It's easy to get your group started. All you have to do is contact your neighbors and arrange a date, place and time for the first meeting. Hold the meetings at your home or that of a neighbor. Try to plan a time that is convenient to most of your neighbors – preferably in the evening.

Then call your local police department. They will be happy to give your group informal lectures, free literature – and in many instances, window stickers and I.D. cards. Remember, police officers can't be everywhere. Your cooperation with them is for the benefit of you, your family, your neighbors and your neighborhood.

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### How To Reduce Crime In Your City

By **Barbara Hall (courtesy of News Canada)**

#### How To Reduce Crime In Your City

by: **by Barbara Hall (courtesy of News Canada) (NC)**—During my term as Chair of the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention, I have visited cities in the United States, England and Belgium to discuss successful crime reduction strategies with local crime prevention officials. One thing that struck me was how similar their experiences were. In each city there was a serious crime problem, a focussed response and a substantial improvement in both the reality and the perception of safety. Although there are no "one-size-fits-all" solutions, there are common elements at work, chief among them a willingness to involve the community in a meaningful way. As one Chief of Police observed, "I [used to think] that the police fought crime alone and that the community could only get in the way. Now we've got it right. We understand that in order to prevent crime and keep our community safe, we've got to involve the community as our partner." Jack Calhoun, President and CEO of the U.S. National Crime Prevention Council has identified six factors that were present in successful American city programs, even though actual strategies differed. They are:

A belief that all key municipal entities must play a role in cutting crime and violence. Schools, businesses, municipal government and social services must all work together.

The need to engage in specific, trackable actions. Cities need to have clear data on what the problems are, where they are and what's causing them. They need to know what's working and what isn't in order to use resources effectively.

The courage to do business differently and to share power. Giving up "turf," while difficult, is essential to working together.

A dual commitment to targeted enforcement and prevention – things like after school programs and mentoring. Law enforcement resources must be deployed consistently with broader crime prevention objectives.

A commitment to the long term. This is a challenge when some offer instant solutions, but helping young people build better lives doesn't happen overnight.

And, as Calhoun puts it, "Clear, passionate, hands-on commitment from the leading policy-makers, prime among them the Mayor and the Chief of Police." Leadership; working together; identifying problems and then attacking them; measuring results; doing business differently; being tough on crime and equally tough on the causes of crime . . . these are the factors that we witness everyday in projects and communities throughout Canada. They produce positive changes here, just as they do in countries around the world. For details on how Canadian towns and cities are working together to reduce and prevent crime, and how your community can get involved, visit

## How To Reduce Crime In Your Neighborhood

[www.crime-prevention.org](http://www.crime-prevention.org)

. Barbara

Hall, is Chair of Canada's National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention.

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Residential Crime Prevention Starts With Taking The Proper Steps To Secure The Outside Of Your Home.

Methods for Reducing & Controlling Crime

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