

Neighborhood Watch

Newsletter

July 2019



Brought to you by the Auxiliary Members of the San Diego Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Team

2019 Neighborhood Watch Conference & Solutions Summit

Neighborhood Watch leaders continue to play a critical role in staying connected to the issues that impact the safety and quality of life in our communities.

By working in partnership with local agencies, we gain the knowledge and understanding that leads to more effective solutions to the challenges of life around us. Knowledge and preparation are one of the greatest tools to combat uncertainty and fear.

On June 8th Neighborhood Watch Captains, Co-Captains and Coordinators from eight Districts participated in the Annual Neighborhood Watch Conference & Solutions Summit, a networking and learning event. This year's theme was "You Hold the Key to Safety"; the topics were; Neighborhood Policing, Human Trafficking, and the state of San Diego Police Department's hiring and retention.



You Hold the Key to Safety

We also acknowledged the 2019 Neighborhood Watch Volunteers Extraordinaire: Bruce Thompson of Oak Park and Linda Pennington of City Heights for their many years of volunteer service in the community and with safety.

Special guests included Councilmember Chris Cate from District 6 who announced a new city-wide program to purchase Neighborhood Watch signs for neighborhoods with official Neighborhood Watch programs.



He also talked about a new ordinance that is being developed that would require massage parlors to go through the San Diego Police Department for licensing. And, some VERY exciting news: A fund is being collected to help San Diego Police Officers with a down payment to purchase a home in San Diego. Currently only 22% of our Officers live in San Diego. To date, the fund is at \$250,000 but there is a commitment for \$1M.



Councilmember Jennifer Campbell from District 2 spoke about the importance of recruitment and retention of San Diego Officers. And the success of the Recruitment Division's efforts by having the biggest class in June in over 25 years.

Our guest speakers included law enforcement from the Neighborhood Policing Division, Detectives from Human Trafficking, Officers from Hiring and Retention Division and Northern Command.

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www.sandiegoneighborhoodwatch.com

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We were honored to have a Human Trafficking Survivor share her remarkable story and what you can do to make a difference. We also heard directly from Officers and Detectives that work on the Human Trafficking Task Force to better understand the magnitude of the problem in San Diego and how observation, education and reporting could change the course of someone's life.

We learned how SDPD's hiring requirements and process is key to understanding the important role of the Neighborhood Watch community.



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San Diego Neighborhood Policing Division



Lt. Corissa Pich
Neighborhood Policing Division

The Neighborhood Policing Division, “NPD” is a city-wide division started in March 2018 by Chief Nisleit. The division was formed to manage encampments, engage people that are homeless, and provide enforcement.

The NPD consists of 3 Homeless Outreach Teams referred to “HOT Teams” and 8 Neighborhood Policing Teams for enforcement.

The HOT Team has been around for 20 years. They ride in vans and try to engage the homeless community to offer services. A member of the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team known as “PERT” and a County worker are included on the team. San Diego is considered a model for the rest of the country when it comes to working with the homelessness.

A homeless person can call the HOT Team and leave a message saying where they will be that day. Depending on the urgency of all incoming calls the HOT team will try to meet with the individual to discuss qualifying programs and assistance. Messages are checked daily.

Also included on the NPD team are two Environmental Services Code Compliance Officers; these officers are the only ones who can post a sign to remove homeless encampments. The SDPD environmental section helps clean up after the required posted time (up to 72 hours) has passed. When removing homeless property SDPD must transfer property to transitional storage facility.

The Transitional Storage Facility is run by Mental Health Systems. The staff who runs it also engage homeless and offer them services.

There is a Vehicle Habitation Ordinance that states a person cannot live in a car or recreational vehicle within 500 feet from residences or schools.

In order for police to ticket someone for vehicle habitation there must be substantial proof of a person living in their car such as cooking equipment, bedding and food.

Presently there are 2 safe parking lots in Kearny Mesa. A new safe parking area is scheduled to open in July and it will be the first to accommodate recreational vehicles. It will be located on Mission Village Drive near the former Qualcomm Stadium. If there are no spaces available in the safe parking lots, unsheltered individuals will not be ticketed.

In an effort to continue to find meaningful solutions to the homeless NPD is adding a Crime Prevention Unit.

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Lt. Pich stressed that the mission of the NPD is **“PROGRESSIVE AND COMPASSIONATE ENFORCEMENT”**.



The City and County have a new joint program called Prosecution and Law Enforcement Diversion Services **“PLEADS”** which provides NPD Officers a resource to offer homeless people with drug addiction rehab over jail.

McAlister Institute (a recovery center) is trying to accept pets at their shelter to remove one of the barriers that keep individuals from accepting help.

QUESTION: Are fires legal in canyons?

ANSWER: ANY fire in a canyon, whether it's a campfire on the ground or a fire in a barbecue container, is illegal and one should call 911.

SDFR sends notices to SDPD on every fire.

Camps should always be reported using the **“GET IT DONE San Diego”** App which can be downloaded (or reported online at <https://www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done>)

neighborhoodpolicing@pd.san.gov

The Homeless Outreach Team can be reached at 619-446-1010.

Human Trafficking

Suzi Day, the Director of the Lynch Foundation for Children; introduced four of their foundations; **“Seeds of Hope”, “Bridges of Hope”, “Homes of Hope”** and **“Circle of Hope”**. All these foundations provide support, opportunity and services to victims, survivors and their families.



Suzi Day, Director of Lynch Foundation
and
Ms. J. Johnson, CEO of
Sisters of the Streets

Sisters of the Streets partners with the Lynch Foundation. This foundation supports and empowers women who have been impacted by sexual exploitation. It was created by those who have lived it, and for those who are still living it.

As a survivor, Ms. Johnson was able to provide insight, signs of possible adult trafficking and speak to commonly held preconceptions about sexual exploitation. She made it clear that victimization can happen to anyone, anywhere.

Ms. Johnson shared that her exploitation occurred in Texas during this time she lived in a gated community. She said to the outside world, they looked like a normal family.

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Human Trafficking – Continued

From Ms. Johnson's experience, younger people are more likely to be enticed into this way of life. Traffickers start to groom the person they are after, telling them they are beautiful or handsome, buying them gifts essentially providing them the attention they may not be getting elsewhere.

Victims basically become property of the traffickers, are abused and prostituted. Tattoos and branding is common.

Ms. Johnson stated another form of trafficking occurs when multiple women living in the same house are forced to travel together for extended periods of time to different cities where sporting events, conventions, fairs are taking place for sexual exploitation.

She ended her powerful message with "Hope" through the collaboration of various agencies, organizations and your support change is possible.

Detective Sergeant McGilvary
Detective Dierdorff
Human Trafficking Task Force

The task force has twelve detectives and involves 13 Federal, State and City agencies and utilizes Federal Prosecutors, the County District Attorney's Office and Social Services providers.

The range for human trafficking is from 15-50; with the average age in the US being 15 and 16. Worldwide the age is 14.

Key Signs

- Lots of movement in and out of houses between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am
- Multiple women living in a house with one male
- Different women, new kids rotating in and out of a residential home

Indicators of Human Trafficking

- Tattoos/Branding/Scars
- Unexplained Money, Clothes or Gifts
- "Extra" Cell Phones
- Texts that are Sexual in Nature
- Bruises that can't be Explained
- Unexplained Social Media Accounts
- Unusual Phone Apps
- Changes in Appearance / Behavior
- New Boyfriend and Friends
- Runaway
- Drug and/or Alcohol Use
- Withdrawal from family
- Truancy from School
- Promiscuity
- Dating older men

Places where Traffickers Recruit

- Facebook & Any Social Network Site
- Local Shopping Malls
- Walking to and from School / On School Grounds
- On the Streets (Tennis Shoe Pimp'n)
- Bus / Trolley Stations / Train
- Group homes
- Juvenile Incarceration Facilities
- Friend of a Friend (Hotel and House Parties, etc.)
- Parks

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WHO TO CONTACT

➤ Polaris National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline:
1-888-373-7888

➤ National Center for Missing and/or Exploited Children:
800-843-5678

➤ San Diego Child Abuse Hotline:
800-344-6000

➤ NCMEC – National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Hotline:
1-800-843-5678

➤ Emergency: **911**

**Human Trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry:
globally \$35 Billion, San Diego \$810M.**

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Backgrounds & Recruitment



Captain, Bernie Colon



Lieutenant, Shawn Takeuchi

Between 2014 and 2018 there was a 46% decline in applications due to negative media about police. Additionally, there is also a correlation when the general population unemployment rate goes down, so do police applications.

Presently, there are 4 academies per year with the goal set to have 50 recruits in each class. It costs \$192,000 to train one officer.

Every Tuesday & Thursday at 1pm SDPD offers free training on their Obstacle Course to prepare candidates for their Physical Agility Test "PAT" which simulates a foot pursuit – 450 yards.

The passing time is 3:15 minutes and consists of:

- Two 6 ft. ladders
- Stairs (67)
- Cone Pattern
- Climb 3 ft. 4ft. and 6ft. Walls
- 155 lbs. dummy drag

If the candidate passes the PAT they will then take their Pre-Investigative Questionnaire "PIQ" the same day. The PIQ is a 330 questionnaire that asks personal questions going back to their early teens.

The hiring criteria is based on what an individual has to offer the department and community.

These are three of the top factors that are considered:

- Education
- Military experience (have a heart to serve, disciplined, and are great rebuilders and problem solvers as this is what they are tasked to do in the countries where they are being sent).
- Life experiences

The hiring process has been streamlined from a year to 3 months without lowering the standards. This allows San Diego to make a job offer to a qualified applicant ahead of other cities.

Pay raises have helped with retention and leveled the playing field for San Diego but policy makers need to continue to keep up with other law enforcement agencies to stay competitive.

Orientation Day for the SDPD Recruits of the 120th Regional Academy was held on Friday, June 7th at Police Plaza (formerly known as Charger Park/Charger's Practice Field) with 63 cadets in attendance this was the largest class in decades.

Orientation Day is where the cadets introduce themselves to the Chiefs and Command Staff before they officially begin the Academy.



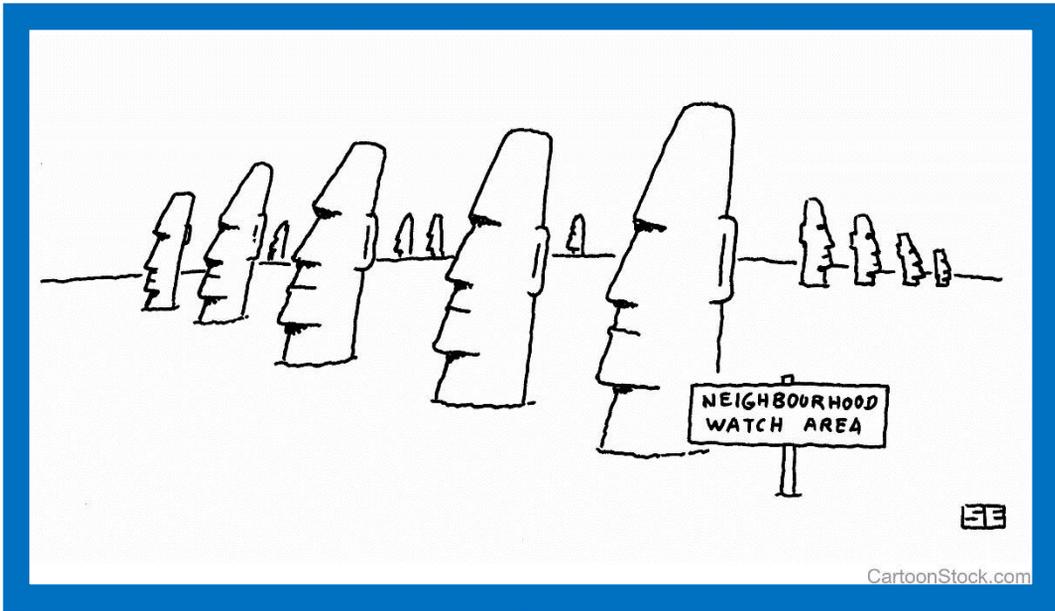
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Thank you for your commitment to the Neighborhood Watch program; Your Community Appreciates You!!!

FORCE MULTIPLIER

Neighborhood Watch Community & Outreach
Northern Division

50,815

Neighborhood Watch Community	Average Homes Per Street	Average Participation	Nextdoor Members and Crime Watch	Neighborhood Watch Announcements In Partnership with Community Newsletters and Social Media
Northern Division Includes HOA's and Apartment Complexes	25 - 30	50%	30,095	6,880