

# What do you say when...?

The following are responses to some of the negative attitudes you may encounter organizing a meeting on your block.

#### 1. "Organizing block/apartment clubs? That's a great idea, but it'll never work in my neighborhood. The neighbors don't even know each other."

- D That's the problem and solution. How can you solve problems if you don't know your neighbors well enough, or care enough, to recognize and address important issues?
- D Some people need a reason to get to know each other, and organizing around common concerns can be just that reason.
- D Experience has shown that residents respond to their neighbor's hospitality.

### 2. "I don't want to be forced to become buddies with my neighbors. I've got my own set of friends outside the neighborhood."

D Getting involved in a block/apartment club doesn't mean you have to become best friends with your neighbors. It means that you agree to cooperate to make your neighborhood a better place to live, because you have some level of concern about the problem and about making improvements.

#### 3. "I don't want to get involved and be a nosey neighbor."

D Many people have discovered that getting involved doesn't mean being nosey; it means being concerned.

#### "We already cooperate with our neighbors to solve problems when they arise."

D Great! This is a chance to get all of your neighbors together, have a bigger impact on a problem, and share your experience.

## 5. "We don't have any crime in our area. This is a nice, quiet neighborhood."

D Organizing a group can help you keep it that way. It can be helpful in addressing other neighborhood concerns as well.

#### 6. "I just don't have the time to be involved."

D You don't need to meet very often, maybe two or more times a year, in order to be effective. It is important that someone from your household comes so you are included in the Neighborhood Watch and get all the information. The meeting will last 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/police outreach safe-teams to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit

www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/index.htm.



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737

Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, Ilame 612-673-2700

Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500

Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800

Sign Language: TTY 612-673-2626

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.