

The Citizen's Role in Crime Prevention *A Working Guide*



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OHIO CITIZENS' COUNCIL



A United Way Agency

Foreword

Crime in our communities is a very serious problem!

About that statement, there is not much argument. What we're not so sure about, though, is what we can do about crime.

One approach, of course, is to simply throw our hands up and live with the fear that at some time we will be mugged, burglarized, raped or worse. That obviously is NO way to live! But we really don't have to because we *can* do something about crime — as individuals and in groups, working together with friends and neighbors. What we do, however, must be thoughtful, directed at specific crime problems and undertaken cooperatively with law enforcement agencies.

This citizen's anti-crime guide discusses the basic notion of crime prevention and the roles of the police and the citizen alike. It provides concrete ideas on how citizens can better protect their homes, businesses and themselves against crime. Several programs showing police and citizens working together effectively for common safety are highlighted.

Methods for finding out about crime in our neighborhoods and techniques for mobilizing citizens to deal with the various crimes are discussed at length.

Most importantly is a philosophy — underlying all crime prevention techniques — that encourages each of us to take a greater responsibility for one another.

If crime prevention is to succeed, that is what it is going to take!

Len Ford
Project Director

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Table of contents

Crime prevention--

it works1

WHAT IS CRIME PREVENTION?

THE CITIZENS' ROLE

THE POLICE ROLE

NCJPS

MAY 4 1978

Community crime

ACQUISITION
prevention7

ORGANIZE THE NEIGHBORHOOD

HOME SECURITY

PERSONAL SAFETY

POLICE/CITIZEN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Mobilizing the

community ..23

THE "BIG PICTURE"

FUNDING A CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

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Crime prevention-- it works

No matter what their political party, social philosophy, race, color or creed, most Ohioans would agree that present crime reduction strategies for some reason just aren't working.

In fact, since 1969 Ohio's cities have greatly increased their criminal justice spending and the state has received over \$200 million in federal support for law enforcement and criminal justice programs. At the same time, the state's reported crime rate more than doubled.

Ohio's inability to reduce crime has certainly caused great suffering among crime victims, but an equally tragic result may be the shifting mood of the general public. With professionals confounded and crime continuing to spread, worried Ohioans have increasingly called for reactive stop-gaps—more prisons and more severe sentences. Public confidence in "the system" has steadily eroded as the "war on crime" is being lost and in its place is a growing sense of impotence, isolation and fear.

1 This manual attempts to reduce that fear by explaining how citizens

themselves can effectively prevent neighborhood crime, not by usurping police duties or fomenting violence and vigilantism but by accepting their shared responsibility for community safety and organizing to take precautions to limit their chances of becoming crime victims.

Crime doesn't just happen, it's the result of an opportunity capitalized upon by a criminal. Crime prevention is the reduction of that opportunity.

WHAT IS CRIME PREVENTION?

"Crime prevention" has been used to refer to an assortment of theories and approaches to the reduction of crime, most of them directed toward changing socio-economic factors. Diversion of first offenders, housing, education and recreational improvements, programs for the "pre-delinquent" and job training for prisoners have all been termed "crime prevention" at one time or another. They all attempt to curb criminal behavior by correcting the social conditions thought to cause crime. A second group of social reformers feel that society's punitive sanctions—apprehension, prosecution and imprisonment—hold greater potential. Both groups base their opinion on the belief that altering the criminal's *desire* to commit crime, rather than his *ability* and *opportunity* to do so (also necessary elements for crime to occur) will produce the most effective and lasting behavioral changes.

However experience and research over the last several years has indicated that reducing the *opportunity* for committing crime may be a much more fruitful undertaking and one in which *everyone* can participate. This crime prevention alternative does not deal in correction or punishment but advocates the placement of physical and personal barriers between the would-be criminal and his "target." These "opportunity reduction" strategies are based on the assumption that the "how" of crime is at least as important as the "why" and provide ways which the entire population can involve themselves in active crime prevention.

Crime prevention, then, is the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

The two key points to remember in crime prevention are that: 1) criminal opportunities can be predicted; and 2) most stranger-to-stranger personal and property crimes are committed by amateurs. When criminal opportunities can be predicted and risks assessed, effective and usually simple solutions can be prescribed to divert the amateur criminal.

For example, burglary accounts for 27% of Ohio's reported crime. Though there is no personal contact between burglar and victim it is a serious and frightening offense. Fully 83% of all burglars are under the age of 25. They look for easy opportunities that pose no challenge to their limited skill. Only one in one thousand burglars picks locks with enough dexterity to try it in his crime. As a result in 35% of burglary cases door locks are forced with screwdrivers, tire irons and crowbars and in another 26% burglars enter through *unlocked* doors and windows.

An unlocked or poorly locked door, a darkened back porch or open basement window all increase a resident's burglary risk. Burglaries are prevented when citizens are made aware of their risk and encouraged to take the right precautions. Studies have proven that a resident only needs enough protection to *stymie* the average burglar for four minutes, after which he moves on, probably to a more accommodating residence.

This is not to suggest a person should lock himself in his home for protection; isolation is the *worst* response to crime. Locks and hardware should be just one part of a comprehensive neighborhood crime prevention program designed and operated by citizens working with police officers.

Admittedly, deadbolt locks and mutual house watching programs between neighbors do not alter the criminal's desire to commit his crime, but by limiting opportunity the young burglar will never get enough practice to develop his ability to the point where he can rely on burglary as a lifestyle.

Crime prevention won't stop crime entirely but a well-run program can reduce it and displace it beyond a criminal's range. Burglars and muggers prefer to work in the familiar confines of their own neighborhoods with most burglaries occurring within three miles of the burglar's residence. A community committed to reducing criminal opportunity will force their "own" burglars to either "retire" or work in unfamiliar neighborhoods where they would have a greater chance of being apprehended.

Auto thefts are also characterized by youthful offenders in search of a no-risk opportunity. In 40% of auto thefts, those victimized obligingly leave their keys in the car. As in burglary, risk here can also be assessed, with prevention based on public awareness of that risk. A 1971 Cleveland program reduced auto thefts significantly by generating a citizen awareness campaign that stressed the effectiveness of simple precautionary measures.

Retail and wholesale businesses, where shoplifting and embezzlement sometimes drive store owners into bankruptcy, especially benefit from the adoption of crime prevention procedures.

A businessman's best overall protection is to have commercial security surveys conducted by crime prevention experts. They appraise possible opportunities for criminal attack and produce a series of recommendations outlining a plan of proven effectiveness.

Shoplifting is overwhelmingly a teenage crime of opportunity, where 99% of the perpetrators have enough money in their pockets to pay for the stolen articles. When store employees are alert and schooled in anti-shoplifting procedures, opportunity decreases and shoplifters are deterred.

Burglary, auto theft and larceny—property offenses that comprise 90% of all serious reported crimes—are the result of opportunity. They can and should be anticipated and prevented.

Even certain predictable characteristics emerge about rape, one of the least reported of major crimes. A Denver study revealed that 25% of rape victims were under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the rape occurred. Seventy-five percent of the victims were women who lived alone. These statistics assist police and rape crisis organizations identify target groups such as business and professional women, nurses, teachers and secretaries so that they can be informed of their high risk status and taught preventive measures.

Crime prevention's most beneficial side effect may be the rekindled sense of cooperation and "community" derived from a shared responsibility for neighborhood safety and protection. Whether it includes glancing occasionally at the house of a vacationing neighbor or walking a "beat" with friends an hour a week, crime prevention reflects a concern for family, neighbors, and neighborhood.

THE CITIZEN'S ROLE

For the citizen, crime prevention means regular meetings with police and fellow citizens to plan and operate block-level anti-crime programs (the mechanics of which are explained in the following chapter), a role which strikes most people as a radical departure from their accustomed relationship with their neighbors and police.

The truth is, historically, that crime prevention has always been an individual and community task. Even cave men protected the members of their family and tribe. Up until the last two centuries, community safety was assumed to be a duty borne by all people in exchange for living under a body of written law—a basic responsibility of citizenship. As laws multiplied and the Industrial Age demanded division of labor, people asked members of their own community to protect them and act as the first policemen. The first organized Western World "police force," London's, wasn't established until 1829.

Police then, should be viewed by citizens primarily as fellow members of the community. Only in the last several decades has the para-military mystique of police departments split "officers" from "civilians." The police, like other criminal justice agencies, were established by citizens to meet citizen needs.

The sense of shared responsibility for community protection has steadily eroded to the point today where the public expects two or three nameless uniformed people out of every one thousand residents to enforce all the laws and guarantee total protection.

Crime is frequently the result of people simply not caring about each other. America has become a nation of strangers, as 20% of its population moves every year. Crime prevention provides a way for all people to break down that isolation.

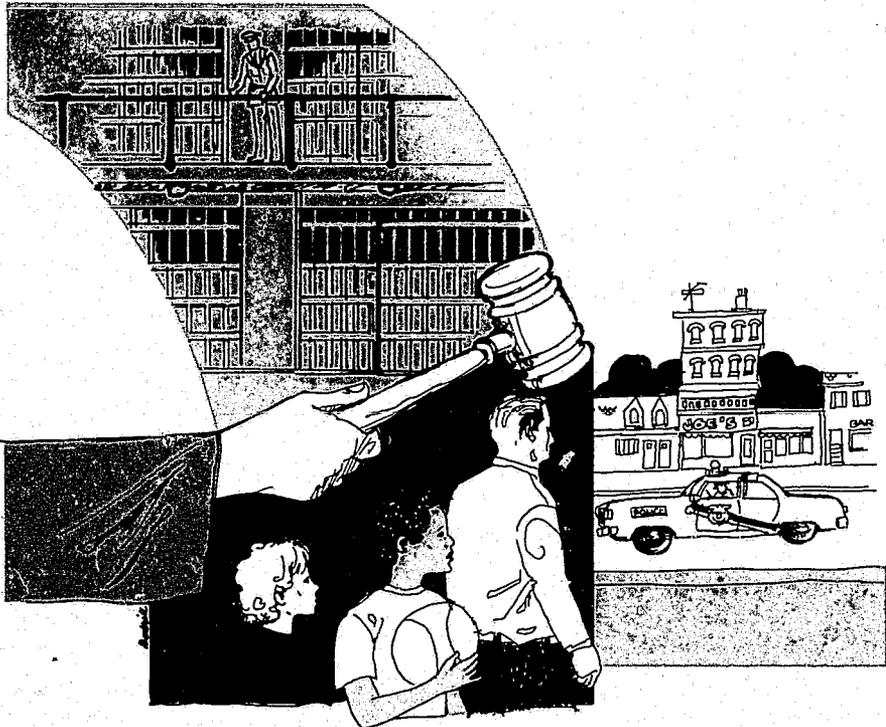
THE POLICE ROLE

Crime prevention is also an avenue police can use to overcome their own separation from their fellow citizens.

Police crime prevention methods have generally centered around hard-nosed identification and apprehension of criminals and random motor patrols. The problem with both is they minimize rather than enhance citizen involvement. Apprehension is undoubtedly a crucial law enforcement function, but studies have shown that it is dependent primarily upon a cooperative relationship among victims, witnesses and the police rather than the independent research of the detective bureau. The effectiveness of motorized patrol, which severely limits officer contact with his community, has been seriously challenged in recent years.

Overall, police have become more and more removed from the community while citizens increasingly overlook their own crime prevention responsibilities. This situation has deteriorated so much so that citizens now generally have no understanding of crime prevention and police generally have no interest in stimulating individual or collective action to reduce victimization. Such an exchange is commonplace in other professions—doctors and dentists

practice preventive medicine, and attorneys work in preventive law. Police too have a professional preventive responsibility to inform their "clients" of the effective methods they can use to reduce their chances of victimization.



Effective crime prevention demands honesty between police and their community. Law enforcement administrators know the police cannot be held solely responsible for rising crime rates and should realize the benefits of informing their community of that fact. Often citizens expect too much of their police while ignoring their own part in community safety. For instance, if a burglar or rapist is operating in a certain area of town, residents should be alerted immediately, given preventive instruction by police, and encouraged to report any suspicious persons. But, in light of citizens' unrealistic expectations, the police, fearing public criticism, tend to keep publicity to a minimum and rely on an overworked detective bureau to come up with the criminal.

It's time for the misunderstandings between police and citizens to be shelved. Though police are not solely responsible for crime fluctuations, they do have a responsibility to provide types of services that enable citizens to become aware of and involved in crime prevention programs. This responsibility requires that local police receive training so that they will possess the technical expertise to offer sound advice to residents and businessmen. The police should take responsibility for informing residents of their burglary risk, coordinating campaigns to increase awareness about auto theft, and offering businessmen expert, free and honest commercial security surveys so that even the smallest retail store can benefit from such an evaluation.

Local crime prevention agencies need the support of the community to rearrange priorities so that a crime analysis capacity is established within the department to provide data on the frequency and types of crimes being committed, greatly increasing the department's ability to *anticipate* crime and assess the risk.

Unless local police departments gain this expertise and develop preventive programs they will always be a reactive force, and always a step behind crime.

Most police administrators and political leaders have passed off crime prevention as another public relations gimmick when actually it offers the most justifiable and legitimate crime-stopping opportunity possible by enabling police officers to meet with residents and businessmen in other than official law "enforcement" situations and to convey useful and effective information.

Police and citizens have for too long operated in separate spheres, ignoring their shared responsibilities, basing criticism on misconceptions and confusing their roles.

It's time to change all that.



Community crime prevention

ORGANIZE THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Community members need to know what programs can work in their area, how these programs operate, and if they are effective. *An organization for disseminating crime prevention information, motivating action, and evaluating performance should be established at the block or neighborhood level to act as liaison between police and crime prevention experts and residents.*

Crime has traditionally been an explosively divisive force, ravaging once-strong communities with fear and suspicion. However there's no reason why this fear can't be used to unite people behind a search for a common solution to crime. Neighbors can prevent crime. Just **ORGANIZE!**

If anyone thinks there's a crime problem in his neighborhood there probably is, and any efforts aimed at gathering residents to discuss that problem will probably be met with enthusiastic participation and interest. Work through established community councils or neighborhood groups, including PTA's and church organizations, to identify leaders at the block level interested enough to take initial responsibility for organizing crime prevention

block clubs. If leaders don't immediately emerge, try municipal civic associations—many have designated block leaders for their annual membership drives who might also be interested in spearheading a block crime prevention campaign. Examine the list of burglary or robbery victims published daily in several Ohio newspapers and ask those from the area to act as organizers. Their motivation to "do something about crime" is usually high. Even community service advertising on TV, radio or supermarket bulletin boards and in community newspapers can produce results.

Unfortunately, many Ohio neighborhoods don't have strong indigenous organizations. In these areas start small—it takes only one person to become the block leader.

Once a local organizer has been found, he or she can host an informal introductory gathering—a cookout or beer-and-pretzels party at his or her home, in the basement of a neighborhood church or at any comfortable local meeting place. Invite shopkeepers and landlords as well as apartment-dwellers and homeowners. All of them have an emotional and/or economic stake in neighborhood safety.

Believe it or not, many neighbors will meet each other for the first time. Attendees should be encouraged to discuss their experiences with local crime. The retelling frequently reveals the existence of common problems and renews a feeling of concern among neighbors.

The second meeting of the block club should include a more detailed discussion of the crime problem, the number and kinds of local victims, official police crime statistics and police policy and performance in dealing with neighborhood crime. It may be appropriate to have a representative of the police department, from either the crime prevention, community relations, or juvenile bureaus to discuss his assessment of local crime and suggest citizen-based programs to combat it.

Once residents have agreed on a specific need, they should take definite, positive action. The responses in differing neighborhoods will undoubtedly vary. Where street crime is most feared, organized civilian or tenant patrols and escort services for children and the elderly might be instituted. In burglary-ridden areas, residential security surveys and block watch programs might be of primary interest.

The block **MUST NOT** use or carry weapons or advocate violence or vigilantism. Only the police have the training and authority to enforce the law. It is extremely important to **develop a close relationship with the local police department** by making sure they are always notified of club activities and consulting with them on all plans and programs.

One of the most common problems of a newly-formed block club is recruiting new members. Avoid this problem by offering a service to non-club residents of the neighborhood. Ask the police department or auxiliary police commander to **instruct** club members in conducting residential security surveys so that they can secure their homes. Then offer, as a service of the club, to survey the homes of non-members. After the survey, ask the neighbor to join or at least donate to the cause. Operation Identification, a program where valuables are marked with social security numbers, can also be a recruiting service of the newly formed club.

Call regular monthly meetings, bring in films and speakers, collect dues to pay for printing and mailing costs and elect a permanent chairman or leader to handle liaison with the police. The idea is to regularly complete small tasks.

involving as many people as possible. The club might want to recognize and reward those who become especially active.

Eventually, block clubs may merge to form a neighborhood crime prevention association and join with PTA's, churches, civic organizations and other neighborhood groups to reduce criminal opportunity. Neighborhood development associations and business groups have much to gain from a safe, secure community and have proven to be valuable, active allies in any local attempts to reduce crime.

Sometimes, due to neighborhood differences or community apathy, block club formation never gets off the ground. Don't give up! Use any available resources, including special purpose organizations like the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons, the community service representative of the local labor organization and the area agency on aging. All have excellent, expanding crime prevention programs and can act as alternatives to the block as the primary organizational unit.

Citizen leaders should be aware that in some municipalities the police, rather than residents, are forming crime prevention block clubs. Though police cooperation is essential to club survival, these occasional cases of primary police involvement have caused problems because police agencies often lack the background and ability to deal on equal terms with citizens' groups. On the other hand, citizen crime prevention organizations that disregard police and other government agencies may achieve short term results but will probably fail in the long run.

If the crime prevention concept is adopted by police agencies, community crime prevention programming will achieve stability and permanence and the police will become a valuable resource for citizen action.

The optimum condition exists when well established and trained police crime prevention units, backed by a total department and municipal government commitment, work closely with well-rooted neighborhood organizations, with both citizens and police calling upon the resources and support of service clubs, civic organizations, trade associations, labor unions, and foundations.

HOME SECURITY

Though most people fear violent crime more than property crime, property offenses are by far the most common. In fact, the number of reported property crimes in Ohio have increased more than 75% since 1971. So before organizing a block or neighborhood association for crime prevention, become familiar with methods of home security.

There are four aspects in residential security programming—DENY, DETER, DELAY or DETECT the intruder.

Deny. First, if a burglar penetrates all precautions, deny him any rewards. Keep large amounts of money, convertible securities and expensive but rarely worn jewelry in the bank. Small valuables in the home (jewelry, cash) should be hidden in the least obvious places. The average burglary takes only four minutes, just enough time for the thief to check all the usual household hide-aways—bureau drawers, cookie jars, backs of pictures. If expensive furs, electronic gear and other large, easily saleable items must be kept around the house, outfit a second story closet with a solid core door (hinges on the inside) and a good deadbolt lock.

Deter. The second aspect of residential security creates conditions that deter the intruder. Burglars, above all else, do not want to get caught, and most of them aren't because they easily identify unoccupied homes. *Half* of all burglaries are committed between 9 A.M. and 6 P.M., when most people are working.

If possible, create the impression that the house is occupied—it's as good a deterrent as if someone really were home. When leaving for the day, curtains should be in their normal position. Keep a radio playing near the front or back door. Join Operation Identification and affix the sticker indicating participation to a window easily observable from the street or alley.

Lights . . . If out for the evening, turn a light on in a second floor bedroom or bathroom, have the radio playing near the back door and make sure the outside of the house is well-lit. Use light-sensitive switches and timer devices whenever leaving for several days. Apartment dwellers should ask the landlord to faithfully install and/or replace lobby and hallway lights. A higher wattage might be appropriate. If he questions the necessity of such measures, suggest that he consult the town's building inspection department. (Some cities have set lighting standards as part of comprehensive municipal security codes.)

On vacation . . . During the long summer months burglars look for the telltale signs of vacationing families. Notify the police and a trusted neighbor whenever leaving for vacation. Rather than cancelling all deliveries, it's better to have a neighbor take charge of picking up the morning paper and collecting the mail. Don't disconnect the phone, this can indicate absence. Do lower the loudness of the phone's ring. Ask a neighbor to park his car in the driveway or leave the family's second car there. Notes should not be left on the door. If upon returning the door appears to have been forced, don't go in! Call the police immediately.

Don't invite crime . . . Try to be security conscious. Who has extra keys to the house? When moving into a new place have the tumblers in the lock changed. Don't carry identification tags on a keychain, if they're lost it could be a burglar's dream. Leave only the ignition key with mechanics and parking lot attendants; house keys can be easily duplicated and the address found through the automobile registration papers in the glove compartment. Keep shrubbery trimmed so it doesn't camouflage the intruder as he works on a basement window or door. A good alert dog, one that barks whenever someone comes to the door, is one of the best deterrents to burglary.

Women living alone should list only their last name and initials in telephone directories and only their last name on mail boxes. If a person's name turns up in the newspaper regarding a wedding, funeral, christening or bar mitzvah, he should ask someone to "house sit" during the published times. Be wary of a series of unsolicited telephone calls, surveys, unknown callers and "wrong numbers." This can be a way for burglars to "case" the residence. Don't hesitate to call the police if anything is suspected.

Delay. If the burglar has the audacity to attempt a burglary after the above precautions have been taken, DELAY him as long as possible.

Doors and window locks . . . Every outside door on a house or apartment should be outfitted with a deadbolt lock capable of protruding at least one inch into the strikeplate. Ohio law now mandates that any apartment or multi-unit dwelling over four units be so equipped. If the doors have hinges on the

outside, drill a hole near the top and bottom hingeplates and install a steel pin so the door cannot be lifted if the hinge pins are removed.

Unfortunately, most doors installed in Ohio these days have hollow cores or thin panels, easily punched out by the none-too-subtle criminal. For these doors, reinforce the panels with ply-wood or contemplate installing a double-cylinder deadbolt, the kind that must be opened with a key from both sides. Though these locks provide extremely good protection they can cause serious and even fatal problems if the home or apartment should catch fire—which is a greater physical risk to the occupants than burglary. Either keep the key in the lock when at home or make sure everyone in the house knows the key's place. Consider buying an electronic smoke detector.

Secure all the windows that could be used as entrances for burglars, especially those in the basement. The common double-hung window can be adequately protected by drilling a 1/4-inch hole from the window frame into the casement and inserting a large nail or other steel pin. Casement windows afford much better protection but the windows are usually small enough for thieves to break the glass quietly by using wide strips of masking tape on the window, reaching in, and unlatching the lock. For these and small aluminum double-hung windows, a keyed tumbler lock fastened into the frame is the best bet. These cost about \$4 and can be purchased at any hardware store. Again, remember the threat of fire and teach all residents how to unlock bedroom window locks in a hurry.

Sliding glass doors are one of the burglar's favorite entryways. They're too big to break so burglars usually force the small lock on the frame or lift the entire door up and out of its channels. Prevent this kind of entry by placing a broom handle-sized wooden or steel rod in the door's channel and installing a key operation lock attached into the aluminum window frame.

Detect. If all else fails, the last level of home security DETECTS the intruder once he has entered the home. Many people feel that the only way to really protect their home is to buy an alarm system. *Most homes don't need one.* The typical teenage amateur burglar will usually be diverted by good locks and other less costly precautions already mentioned. If more protection is needed, seriously consider adopting an alert, noisy dog, but *not* an attack dog that may dislike children more than an intruder.

Alarms . . . There are, however, situations where an electronic alarm is recommended: 1) When many valuables need protection; 2) If burglaries are overrunning the neighborhood; 3) If the home is left for long periods of time; and 4) If there are no nearby neighbors.

An added attraction to installing an alarm system is that it will add to the resale value of the home and, if a fire and smoke sensor is attached (an inexpensive addition), several insurance companies will lower fire and burglary protection rates.

Alarms vary from cheap contact and pressure mat operations to highly sophisticated sound and motion detector and infrared barrier systems, and range in price from \$40-\$50 for door and window contacts to virtually thousands of dollars. If seriously considering an alarm, contact the police community relations or crime prevention bureau and ask for a residential survey. If the department has this service, an officer, after examining the house or apartment, will specify what type of alarm, if any, is needed. He will not endorse any specific company or product. Contact the Better Business

Bureau or the local Chamber of Commerce for evaluative information on local alarm companies.

The recommendations presented in this section, if implemented within the context of a block or neighborhood association, should protect most homes from criminal victimization. Work with the block club and police department to determine how much security is needed.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Robbery, murder and aggravated assault account for only 7% of Ohio's reported crime, 85% of which occurs between friends and acquaintances. Yet the fear of violent stranger-to-stranger street crime affects almost everyone's behavior.

The knowledge of personal security precautions can help to ease that fear and liberate those trapped by it.

Safety in the Street. The best way to reduce the risk of personal attack is for each person to **STAY ALERT**, even in his own neighborhood where he would least expect a serious personal crime. Avoid carrying large sums of money, but if that is impossible do so inconspicuously by putting bulging wallets in specially sewn inside dress pockets or suitcoat pockets. Never flash money or leave a purse or wallet unattended, especially in ticket lines, theatres, airports, and other crowd scenes where natural inattentiveness draws **pickpockets**. When walking at night, keep to the busiest and best lit streets, even if that means a short detour. Keep house keys wedged between fingers and carry a whistle. Try to be accompanied by friends. Walk next to the street and avoid alleys and wooded or sparsely traveled areas. Women, especially elderly women who are most victimized by **purse-snatchers**, should remember to grip their purse tightly, close to the body, with the clasp facing toward them—*especially* when loaded down with packages.

If being followed, walk in the middle of the street or go to the nearest phone, even if it's in the next house, and call the police. If near home, ring the doorbell before entering to make the would-be attacker think there is assistance waiting inside. A more effective response is to **MAKE NOISE**, yell "Fire!" and scream as loud and as long as possible or blow fiercely on a whistle. *Make people notice!* This strategy also holds for victims of purse-snatchings.

The above precautions are the best defense against personal crimes and should be adhered to religiously, but there is always some chance of becoming a victim of robbery, assault or rape.

There are two kinds of **robbery—armed and unarmed**. If a robber has a weapon **DO NOT RESIST**, no matter what kind of weapon it is. If he has a gun assume it is loaded. If he indicates a weapon in his pocket assume it is a gun. Relinquish money without hesitation or comment while concentrating on the robber's identifiable physical characteristics—tattoos, scars, body height and weight. Police records show that those who cooperate with robbers will generally remain unharmed. It's not worth risking injuries or a life for credit cards and cash.

In an unarmed robbery, or "mugging," the assailant physically assaults the victim, grabs a wallet or purse, and runs away. The victim's response is as

much a personal as a tactical one. For example the elderly, muggers' prime targets for whom serious fractures and long hospital stays pose a much greater threat than the temporary economic loss of robbery, should in many cases not fight back. If it is obvious that the assailant wants only money, it is wiser to simply give it up. Muggers frequently work in teams, relying on an overpowering physical advantage in lieu of weapons. Efforts to overcome that advantage may be useless. Frequently, however, a victim will not know whether the criminals are robbers or assaulters. Every situation is different.

Resist physically only if one unarmed assailant is involved or life is in jeopardy. Self-defense should never be used unless a person is attacked and physical combat becomes absolutely unavoidable. However, whether in an armed robbery, simple assault or assault to rape, once the decision to fight back is made—go all out!

React loudly and firmly, yelling "Fire!" to draw attention while attempting to escape. Fight dirty. Punch the mugger once in the eyes and nose with "key hand" and run. Use kicks to the shin . . . heels to the instep . . . knees to



the groin. If grabbed on the arm or wrist, instead of pulling away, throw that arm up—hard—to break the grip and then run. Women can grab their handbags with both hands, ramming the sharpest corner into an assailant's face. A rolled newspaper bent in half can be a potent weapon if jabbed into the mid-section just below the ribs.

If a person is convinced his or her life is in danger, then and only then, play along with the attacker and strike when he is least expecting it. Squeezing a testicle or putting an eye out with a thumb are not pleasant things to think about, but these techniques can be used if necessary. Immediately escape, yelling "Fire!" and screaming.

The best defense for **rape** is deciding on a response before it ever happens. If a rapist knows from the outset that a woman will not be intimidated, he is much more likely to look for a more cooperative victim. Rapists test a woman's vulnerability in several ways. The safest stance for a woman alone is to be aloof and unfriendly on the street and refuse to help or be helped by strange men. *A clear refusal to cooperate at the very beginning of the attack, no matter what form it takes, is the best way to repel a would-be rapist.*

If the attacker is alone and unarmed, a woman should resist physically, quickly and without hesitation. Give it everything, expect to hurt and possibly be hurt. Use the defensive tactics mentioned above and take self-defense courses. (The martial arts take years to master and are more concerned with style and form than practical "street fighting.")

If relying on "weapons" like hairbrushes, combs, and hairspray, consider that in most rapes and assaults the victims are taken completely by surprise—and usually drop their purses. Also due to the element of surprise, experienced assailants can usually turn guns against their victims fairly easily. Fingernails may be the most effective and available "weapon." Dig hard and pull.

The rapist generally acts out a sexual fantasy during his crime and several ploys can be used to shatter this illusion. Women have averted rape by vomiting on themselves or telling their attacker they were underage or menstruating.

Rape is undoubtedly a severely traumatic and emotionally damaging experience. Each woman must use her own judgement and common sense about fighting back. However, when faced with several attackers or an armed rapist there is great risk; serious injury or death could result from struggling. In this case submission may be the only choice. If this happens, serious injury or death need not be the inevitable result. Statistics show that most rape victims do not receive serious *physical* injury.

Rape cannot be characterized as a stranger-to-stranger street crime. "Trusted acquaintances and friends" perpetrate half of all rapes and over 50% of rapes occur in the victim's home. Realize that bringing a "friend" into a place where he can feel secure and comfortable is a much greater invitation to rape than is commonly believed.

Don't hitchhike. It puts a woman in the highest rape risk category. But if it is a *necessity*, never get in a car with two or more men or where the driver has been drinking. Keep a cigarette lit and the window rolled down in order to have a weapon and be able to easily call for help. Hitchhike in populated areas and don't hitchhike at night unless absolutely necessary.

If victimized by rape or assault, make sure the criminal is brought to justice—remember his characteristics so he can be identified. Mark him physically during the fight. **REPORT ALL CRIMES.** Rely on the local rape crisis center for sympathetic, knowledgeable assistance. Several urban police departments have instituted specially trained rape squads. Rape victims should not bathe, shower, douche or throw away or launder the clothes worn at the time of the crime. Any physical evidence will be useful to catch and convict the rapist. Rapists repeat; prevent other such crimes by putting the perpetrators in prison. Cooperate fully with the prosecutor's office by testifying against the assailant at his trial.

Safety in the car. Keep the car locked at all times. When driving, roll the windows up high enough so no one can reach inside. *Stay alert*, don't get caught in a dangerous situation, especially at night. Travel and park in busy

well-lit areas and glance in the back seat before re-entering the car. If alone, keep the purse on the floor. If harassed by another car or someone on foot, don't be afraid to pull into a hospital, gas station, or diner honking the horn and turning the headlights on and off. **MAKE A SCENE!**

If the car breaks down out of earshot of safe assistance, get off the road, turn on the emergency flasher system, raise the hood, tie a white handkerchief to the radio antenna and wait for help—with the increased popularity of CB radios, authorities can be notified almost immediately. If a motorist stops, send him for help. Don't get out of the car or unlock the doors. Don't go with him. Really helpful people will understand the caution and gladly find assistance.

If there's cause to worry about a thief stealing the car battery, consider a good, 3/8-inch motorcycle chain with a case hardened steel padlock to connect the hood to the car frame. As for CB radios, portable tape decks, and packages, stow them in the trunk whenever leaving the car for *any* length of time.

Safety in the Home and on the Phone. Never automatically open the door when someone knocks. Have a peep-hole installed for a few dollars and use it. The popular chain locks will not hold even a medium-sized individual who wants in.

If the caller is a stranger, ask that some form of identification and credentials be slipped under the door. Check his credentials with a phone call. If not interested, say so and return the cards without opening the door. Don't respond to pressure or impatience over the precautions, legitimate salesmen know caution is wise. Be especially wary of "Bible salesmen" and "missionaries."

If a stranger wants to use the phone to summon emergency assistance or the police, take the message and make the call personally. If it's a trick the intruder will leave. However, if the caller is escaping from a street crime, blow a whistle and alert the neighborhood to the criminal's presence.

At night draw the blinds and draperies so no one can watch from outside. Call the police and neighbors if there are prowlers.

Be cautious about **elevators** in apartment buildings. If alone and there are few people around, don't enter an elevator with strange men. That's not being rude, just cautious.

If odd noises in the house or apartment interrupt sleep, shut and lock the bedroom door, which should be blessed with a sturdy deadbolt lock, and call the police from a bedroom phone (a security "must" for women who live alone). Burglars do not expect to be discovered and they're surprised, nervous and dangerous when someone happens upon them.

A person should always use the **telephone** on his own terms. When a voice asks, "Who is this?" don't tell him. Instead say, "What number did you call?" If it's the kind of caller that remains silent or makes an obscene or suggestive remark, hang up! He'd like nothing better than to be asked who he is or what he wants. A person has every right to refuse to participate in telephone surveys and may demand that his or her name be stricken from their lists.

If nuisance calls persist, notify the police and call the telephone company's business office. They have representatives trained to investigate and help identify the source of these calls. In rare, extreme cases such as kidnapping, threats and extortion, call the police immediately (no matter what the alleged kidnappers say) for further instructions.

Cons and Frauds. All confidence men know there's a little larceny, greed, and cynicism in everyone and they can capitalize on these all-too-human weaknesses with startling ease and expertness. Law enforcement officers with experience in the field say there is no end to the ways in which intelligent, well-educated and otherwise aware people can be swindled and bilked if they are hit with the right scheme, at the right time, by the right operator. *Everyone is a potential victim.*

Frauds come in all shapes and sizes. Everyone should *read and understand every contract he signs.* Don't be pressured! Homes have been lost—legally—as a result of signing a mere TV repair contract.

Be suspicious of door-to-door solicitors or any enterprise where they initiate the contact. Watch out for the "bank examiner" fraud and remember that the government or a bank has no right and will never ask anyone to withdraw his savings.

Be hesitant and cautious about having anything to do with transfers of sizeable amounts of cash, secret plans, "get rich quick" schemes and that perennial favorite—"home improvements." If not familiar with a construction or remodeling company, check its credentials with the Better Business Bureau, Consumer Protection Office or local Chamber of Commerce.

Be alert for mail frauds. Don't be fooled by chain referral schemes, debt consolidation offers, retirement estates, business franchises, "work-at-home" ruses (especially when there's a "registration fee" involved), fake laboratory tests, miracle cures, mail order clinics, and self-improvement frauds.

POLICE-CITIZEN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

As a crime prevention block club or neighborhood association is being established, it should begin to funnel its members into cooperative programs that will effectively reduce crime. What follows is a short description of several of these programs. None should be tried without the cooperation and knowledge of the local police department. The police can also assist the organization by: 1) providing the information needed to choose the right kind of program for the block or neighborhood; 2) educating the membership in crime prevention methodology; and 3) helping evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Whatever program is instituted, *advertise* its existence. The reason here is to inform crooks rather than trumpeting the organization's own accomplishments. Window decals and posters in local stores will usually serve this purpose.

Home Security Surveys. A complete security survey is the best way to identify the crime risks of individual homes and apartments and it can be a valued service the club performs for the entire neighborhood. The group should ask the police community relations, crime prevention, or even auxiliary police officers to formally train its members in conducting these surveys.

Security surveys can and should be used as a come-on to attract new members. The survey could be a free service of the block or neighborhood organization and offers a chance for the club to explain crime prevention techniques while demonstrating its own expertise.

Operation Identification. Operating in hundreds of cities and towns across the country, this program distributes etching tools to individuals so that they can mark their valuables with their social security number. Its dramatic success in

lowering burglary rates has made it one of crime prevention's most popular programs.

Unfortunately, Operation ID is not as widely used as it should be, primarily because the marking tool distributors, whether they're police officers, firemen, or merchants, don't actively "push" the program. The block club can provide the needed personal link. After receiving training from the police department, distribute fliers in a target block announcing the program, its purpose and the upcoming visit five to seven days after the flier distribution day. At the specified time arrive at the target homes and show the residents how and what to engrave, leaving a marking pen with each home. Later that same day go back and collect the pens. This project can also be an effective recruiting activity. Frequently local businessmen will chip in to buy the \$6 engraving pens.

Whistles and Frog Horns. The purpose of their use is to spread the alarm whenever a member of the community witnesses a crime. In case of trouble, residents are instructed to run toward the middle of the street (once they are physically safe from harm) and blow their whistles or horns and call the police as soon as possible. The alarm is spread to others carrying whistles.

As many members of the community should be involved in this program as possible and its existence widely advertised.

Child Safety Programs. If the block or neighborhood club identifies the intimidation and molesting of school children as a serious community concern, a more aggressive version of the "block parent" idea might be tried. In this program parents, in conjunction with the school's PTA, patrol in pairs during those times when children are walking to and from school. Merchants are recruited to call police whenever patrols blow their whistles for assistance. Both storekeepers and area residents provide refuge to children who encounter trouble.

This program is especially valuable in that it requires the cooperation of both neighborhood businessmen and community residents to overcome a common problem.

Block Watchers. These volunteers are concerned citizens who lend their eyes and ears to help the police. Their objective is to watch out for emergencies and street crimes and report them to the police or appropriate city agency. Anyone interested in becoming a block watcher is trained by the police so he or she will know how to identify and report criminal or suspicious activity. Typically, a watcher is given a specific identification number so that his emergency call can be processed immediately while he remains anonymous. Only one or two key police officials or, as an alternative, some outside sponsoring agency such as a newspaper or radio station, has the list of program participants. The name is unknown to the officers on patrol.

The program is most valuable in areas where the fear of recrimination from reporting crime is severe.

Neighborhood Watch. This program, officially sponsored by the National Sheriff's Association and conducted by scores of Ohio sheriffs, includes free literature on Operation ID, personal security and residential security. Participants in the program implement recommendations suggested in the literature and promise to cooperate with the sheriff's office in reporting

criminal and suspicious activity.

The program is not geared to operate within a block association context, though its principles could be easily adapted to that framework.

Patrols. If the community is faced with a serious street crime problem, one possibility is organizing neighborhood citizen patrols. *Don't attempt them unless the police agree to fully cooperate and support the program and they also commit themselves to thoroughly train and continually supervise the patrollers.* Patrols should be tried after other, less aggressive tactics have failed to reduce robberies and assaults.

Since the basic idea of crime prevention is to educate residents to accept crime prevention as they would any other responsibility of citizenship, such patrols should never be paid. Additionally, expenses for even modest remuneration are so high that financially-strapped cities have little choice but to deny continued funding once federal and foundation grants lapse.

Youth Patrols . . . Youths commit most neighborhood crimes and since teenagers can communicate most effectively with their peers, this program has excellent potential. Such patrols can help protect children going to and from school, guard against school vandalism, and assist police at parades, festivals, on Halloween and at other special events. In some high schools, where crime prevention is taught in civics and sociology classes, these patrols are organized through the student council or other school-sanctioned organization.

Community Walks . . . In this crime prevention strategy residents take turns walking in groups of twos or threes in designated areas of the community during scheduled times. The walks put people on the streets, deterring crime and achieving a community identity. The walkers are "armed" with freon horns or whistles. When they spot trouble they sound their devices alerting the neighborhood and then call the police. Walkers can also aid crime victims.

Civilian Patrols . . . The most aggressive of community patrols, this is understandably a sensitive area to police and public alike who fear that volunteers may attempt to take the law into their own hands and expose themselves and the community to danger. However, with proper screening, training and careful supervision the possibility of such an occurrence is remote. In this program volunteers patrol the streets in civilian clothes and private cars, using CB radios to report to local base stations when criminal acts are observed. These patrols never carry weapons or use force of any kind and never even get out of their cars to investigate.

Tenant Patrols . . . In housing projects or large apartment complexes, tenant patrols can check residents as they enter buildings and provide escort services for night workers, children, and persons attending civic meetings and church gatherings.

It should be mentioned that civilian patrol members, due to their special activities, soon are identified by the neighborhood criminal element. Harassment and threats are possibilities. However, if the community truly supports the patrol, there's a much greater chance that the desired effect will be produced and the criminals will be driven out rather than their outlasting the patrol.

Whatever program is chosen, take pains to evaluate the results. Organizations should begin compiling information *before* the program starts so that the differences can be noted when the program's finished. Evaluation usually strengthens the program by cutting out wasteful and ineffective parts

while adding validity and support. Work with the police department to design an evaluation that really tells an organization if its program works.

COMMUNITY-WIDE CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Most of the programs mentioned above can be organized by any small, local group with enough interest to get them started. More far-reaching programs, however, need the resources and support of community-wide agencies and organizations—the police, city government, local businessmen, and the media.

Just as these groups should encourage citizens to become involved in crime prevention, so too should citizens push for more active participation by their "community decision-makers." Neighborhood organizations can create community momentum for crime prevention by suggesting to community leaders specific programs with proven effectiveness. Here are some suggestions:

Police Programs. Primary among a law enforcement agency's crime prevention responsibilities is information exchange, evaluation and coordination of neighborhood crime prevention groups. Citizens must be primarily responsible for the prevention of crime but police must assume the duty of educating, training, and motivating citizens in their crime prevention role.

Commercial security surveys should be the exclusive domain of law enforcement agencies. It has become one of the most valuable and appreciated services the police department can provide to the business community, for it saves a supermarket or department store several thousand dollars annually in prevented thefts.

Law enforcement agencies should re-examine their utilization of **auxiliary police officers** with an eye toward crime prevention. These trained volunteers can be further trained to conduct residential security surveys and handle traffic tie-ups, public service chores and other non-enforcement jobs so that sworn officers will have more time for crime prevention.

Neighborhood assistance officers, young police para-professionals assigned to districts where the police-citizen relationship is especially hostile, act as liaisons between police and residents and use the tools of crime prevention organizing to begin to crack some traditional community barriers.

With the CB radio boom showing no signs of subsiding, some police departments have taken the lead in organizing **civilian radio fleet patrols**. Drivers of buses, taxis, delivery trucks or any private vehicle equipped with a CB have shown great interest in assisting police over the air-waves. Officers usually set up a volunteer base station with a special call number for Cbers. Some departments provide an eight to ten hour mandatory training course for program members while others develop literature describing general police and emergency operations and explaining how to report and identify street crimes, suspicious persons, fires, accidents and unusual occurrences.

Local Government Programs. Each new shopping center, factory expansion, apartment complex or housing development affects not only the sewage and power systems but also the criminal environment. Just as sound planning can avoid foul-ups in a water supply system, responsible planning can greatly reduce criminal opportunity and enhance the natural responsibility a resident will feel for his neighbors and community.

Crimes occur in a geographical and social environment, an environment that frequently encourages criminal activity by the use of cheap locks, poor lighting, and worst of all, isolating individuals by architecturally eliminating any sense of shared responsibility for the protection of fellow residents.

Local land siting, zoning, and planning commissions can reduce the crime rate as well as the alienation level of their town if they work with their police chief to familiarize themselves with the concept of **defensible space—preventing crime through urban design.**

Since the physical environment plays such a vital role in crime, those who mold that environment—architects, contractors and builders—should be sensitive to reducing criminal opportunities in their structures. The most direct way to develop this sensitivity and advance the cause of crime prevention is to **incorporate security standards into local building codes.**

These codes can set down specific requirements for locking devices, types and thickness of doors and doorframes, and in some cases even mandate the installation of alarm systems. A municipal security code should include specifications on the amount and type of commercial and residential **lighting** and suggest vandal-proof **glazing** (window) materials such as plexiglass, acrylics, and polycarbonates, for use in factories, schools and public housing complexes where window breaking problems may be especially acute.

Local government agencies have cooperated with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and local insurance agents to familiarize more residents of high crime areas with HUD's little used **crime insurance** opportunities. Many houses and neighborhoods rehabilitated under HUD programs have been equipped with first-rate security hardware, which HUD gladly funds if it is part of a comprehensive rehabilitation program.

Victim/witness assistance programs give people willing to prosecute and testify a haven of understanding and help. Working with county or municipal prosecutors, free public transportation services for witnesses, victim/witness intimidation bureaus and child day care facilities for witnesses or victims can be developed. Senior citizens, college students or other lay volunteers who have proven their competence and enthusiasm can staff these programs.

Local government agencies, in association with neighborhood organizations and the police, can initiate **conflict resolution processes** like Columbus' Night Prosecutor Program. A great number of offenses, from petty suburban vandalism to serious assaults in city streets are traced back to neighborhood disputes ranging from barking dogs and loud stereos to excessive drinking, illegal parking and trespassing.

Restitution programs mediate between disputing parties, broker for governmental services and reach contractual agreements between adversaries. That kind of prompt and timely intervention often averts future serious crimes, arrests and prosecutions.

Crime Prevention Programs for the Business Community. Retail businessmen, no matter what their volume and profits may be, can prevent crime by patching together **buddy alert systems** so neighboring merchants can be alerted to contact authorities whenever anyone of them is being robbed.

Insurance companies can be an individual help to crime prevention efforts by offering **premium reductions** when security recommendations made in a police-conducted security survey are implemented. Standards on which to base

such reductions are now being examined and defined by experts across the country.

Ohio business organizations can help **reduce shoplifting** by unilaterally adopting a policy of strict prosecution of shoplifters and making their position known to area teenagers through the activities of high school Distributive Education Clubs which utilize the superb anti-shoplifting materials prepared by the Ohio Retail Merchants Association.

Business has always been a strong supporter of crime prevention. Citizens might look to merchants to donate billboard space, marking utensils, and even free advertising in their trade journals and labor newsletters.

Strong business backing of crime prevention practices can exert a powerful influence on the local police department and city government to officially adopt crime prevention as a criminal justice priority.

Media programs. Media has done an outstanding job around Ohio and the country publicizing crime prevention messages and campaigns in cooperation with local police departments. This in itself does not make a tangible effect on public behavior but, coupled with neighborhood activities, media messages can do much to reinforce community crime prevention awareness.

For radio and TV stations to keep their licenses, the Federal government requires that a daily portion of air time must be freed for community-oriented programming and advertising. Local crime prevention groups should submit **public service announcements**, draft "crime prevention tips of the day (week)" for use on radio and television and talk to station managers or newspaper editors about programs and feature stories on crime prevention.

It might even be possible to get media managers to examine the effect their crime reporting styles have on community fear levels.

Special Interest Groups. Sometimes a neighborhood is so fragmented, unorganized or split by intra-community squabbles that neighborhood-based crime prevention efforts are impossible. In those cases there's good reason to turn to special interest groups to get the ball rolling.

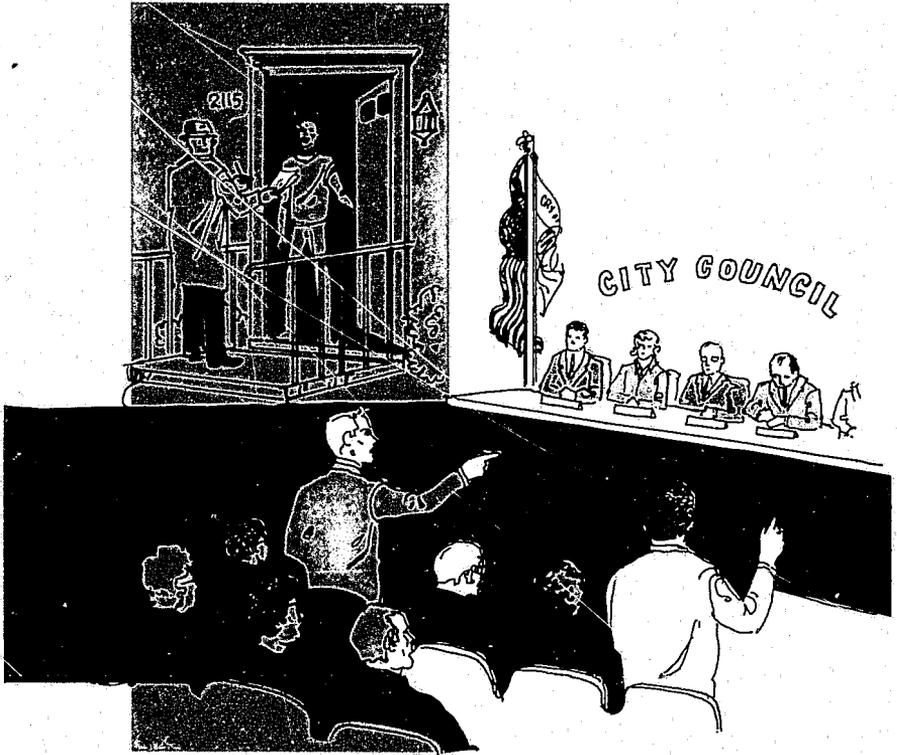
PTA's, having always had strong support in the community, would be especially adept at organizing programs for children and teenagers. For instance, crime prevention courses have been initiated in several communities around the country—most notably a Tyler, Texas, curricula that runs from kindergarten through grade 12. Combined with civics and sociology classes, the program defines "law" and relates each citizen's responsibilities under the law to the protection and assistance of fellow citizens.

The **AFL-CIO** has received federal grants to organize crime prevention programs among its unions' rank and file and Ohio has been chosen as one of the target states. Program participants are encouraged to organize block clubs and neighborhood crime prevention associations where they live.

The **Ohio Commission on Aging** and the **National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons** have been concerned about and involved in crime prevention for several years. NRTA/AARP has developed an outstanding crime prevention course for senior citizens. The Ohio Commission on Aging eventually hopes to operate crime prevention programs in each of its 14 area agencies on aging.

Women's organizations such as the **League of Women Voters**, the **Junior League** and the **National Council of Jewish Women**, are becoming increasingly

involved in crime prevention. Though they usually specialize in lobbying for prison and legal reform, they have established an enviable record of thorough study and effective leadership that would prove invaluable to any crime prevention effort.



Mobilizing the Community

THE "BIG PICTURE"

Why Organize? Once a neighborhood crime prevention association has been initiated and operated for a short time, the benefits of consolidating interests with those of similar groups, including a variety of seemingly unrelated civic and municipal organizations, will soon become evident.

If a neighborhood citizens group is to become *seriously* involved in crime prevention, it has to generate community-wide support so that it can impact decisions that can only be made at the city level. Without municipality-wide decision-making the really effective crime prevention programs can't exist. For the drafting and passage of municipal security codes the participation of contractors, builders, and planners in conjunction with elected officials and police administrators is needed. Advertising and publicity campaigns must include representatives from the city's print and electronic media. The school

board must be contacted if a neighborhood association calls for crime prevention and self-defense classes in local schools. Training block club members in conducting residential security surveys or retail store employees in preventing shoplifting demands central coordination.

Victim/witness assistance programs require the cooperation of police, citizens, prosecutors and the judiciary.

First Steps. For the "big picture" in crime prevention in any city, ideally the first person to see is the commanding officer of the police department's crime prevention bureau. For the many municipalities that don't have a prevention bureau, speak to the chief, his administrative assistant, or the head of the department's community relations bureau.

Request his assistance in solving a specific problem or need of a local association that requires coordinated action and real crime prevention expertise. A relationship with the local law enforcement agency should already have been developed if the group has been active for even a short time. Support the request with hard data and strong arguments.

The Citizens' Crime Prevention Advisory Committee. The best way to implement the broad view of crime prevention programming within a city is to incorporate all citizens' specific crime prevention concerns within a Citizens' Crime Prevention Advisory Committee. The committee not only focuses the resources of business, civic and community leaders on crime prevention, but can be extremely important to the success of the area's entire crime prevention campaign. Since crime prevention programs rely on the cooperation of the community, it is extremely important that city leaders get involved at the planning stages. If the public is to be really supportive and involved in crime prevention programming, they must have a hand in planning these programs. Programs should not be sponsored by the police and more or less thrust on the public.

When selling the Citizens' Crime Prevention Committee idea to police administrators and others, emphasize the following: 1) The committee's primary purpose is to *assist* and *support* public officials in improving the crime situation in the community; 2) The committee will not pre-empt, in any sense, the responsibilities of public officials or the police department in implementing crime prevention programs; 3) The committee is comprised of lay citizens concerned with the subject of crime prevention and the effect crime has on the entire metropolitan area; and 4) The committee is designed to pursue all avenues to reduce criminal opportunity in a city or town by working hand-in-hand with the police and taking the lead in informing its fellow citizens that they too must take the responsibility to reduce criminal opportunity in their neighborhood.

Building Support. Unfortunately, because crime prevention and criminal opportunity reduction is so new to the law enforcement field, many police administrators have not seen enough results to be convinced of its success and have not allotted any of their officers to crime prevention. Other departments contend that they are simply too small to have their own officer assigned to crime prevention. Either way arguments for a city-wide committee may fall on deaf ears. In that case try convincing others from around the area, beginning with fellow block club captains and local merchants, of the mutual rewards to

be gained in cooperation. If enough community support can be generated by a handful of "true believers," the police department should eventually respond to the sincerity and interest of the public by committing departmental time, money and leadership to crime prevention.

Without police support, the community group's interest in expanding municipal awareness of crime prevention will have a more tortuous road to follow but *do not get discouraged*. Start small. Look to other citizen-based associations in your part of town for support. Explain or call in an expert to explain to these groups individually the philosophies, procedures and effectiveness of crime prevention if they are not already familiar with it. The evaluative data on a local project will be most helpful in justifying this position.

Once several neighborhood leaders have been convinced, call an informal meeting in a home or neighborhood center to discuss strategy. Invite representatives of the local retail merchants' association and interested civic groups operating in the particular section of town. Define specifically how a community-wide crime prevention offensive could assist each group in attendance. If the neighborhood support base is not strong enough, try taking the case to the city's labor councils and the law enforcement committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Build more citizen support among neighborhood groups in other areas of town. When promoting the idea of a crime prevention advisory committee, stress that under crime prevention, not only will the police department attempt to apprehend a criminal after an offense is committed, but they will also be able to consult with property owners to reduce the chance that the property will ever again become a target of crime. Property owners are very interested in protecting themselves and their property but without a trained crime prevention officer available as a public consultant, they can only turn for protection advice to security equipment salesmen whose primary interest, of course, is to sell equipment.

Explain to businessmen that crime prevention can save them money by showing them how to better protect their own property. Mention to civic leaders that this service will help to increase the financial and political support of business for police and city activities. Finally, emphasize to city managers and city administrators that, for the first time, the city will have on its payroll qualified persons who will be able to give advice on the protection needs of the millions of dollars worth of city-owned property.

Eventually return to the chief with the request that a city-wide citizens' crime prevention advisory committee be appointed. The chief and police department can be a citizens group's greatest allies. Always work with them and through them if possible.

Choosing a Committee. If the police department administrator responds to the idea for a crime prevention advisory committee, he can begin choosing its members. They should include persons that command respect from both the general public and the professionals within the local criminal justice system and should include leaders from the civic, business and, especially, citizen spheres.

Committee membership could include: the mayor and city manager (advisory members); the police chief; an insurance agents' representative; representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees, the PTA, local school administrations, and the press, radio, and TV; the presidents of the teachers' union, the Fraternal Order of Police, banking associations, local

locksmith association, burglar alarm association, architects' society, builders' hardware association, and local service clubs; the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) regional director; representatives from the area agency on aging, National Organization for Women (NOW), labor unions, and presidents of community organizations and neighborhood councils, especially from high crime rate communities.

The last group is especially important. It is in the neighborhoods, not the board rooms or the editorial departments, where the city's most effective crime prevention work will be done. Make sure community organizations are not only represented but also take an active and responsible part in the proceedings.

Ideally, the chief should take the lead role on the advisory committee and attend all meetings in person. His ranking crime prevention officer has the crucial task of acting as the committee's crime prevention expert and advisor



and should serve as the permanent staff director, constantly working with the chief to provide relevant crime information to the committee and the public.

Persons should not be invited to serve on the committee unless they have the time to fulfill their assigned responsibilities and they are prepared to serve for a reasonable period. High turnover and do-nothing committee members spell failure, and that will only serve to increase the cynicism of public officials who have previously dealt with "do-gooders" long on promise and short on results. Those who would like to serve but must decline because of other commitments should not be discarded out of hand. Many times they can assist in "opening doors" for the committee or contributing funds to raise money for committee operations.

Whether or not, and the extent to which, public officials are to serve on the committee is a very important decision. The balance of opinion suggests that though the committee needs the involvement of office-holders to counsel, advise and eventually implement appropriate action, this involvement should be limited to an advisory (ex-officio) capacity for three basic reasons: 1) The absence of public officials on the committee better assures the group's independence, impartiality, and objectivity which, in turn, gives greater strength to the recommendations of the group not only among the general public but also among legislative bodies and public officials themselves; 2) A

non-governmental membership promotes more frank, more productive discussions regarding criminal justice problems; and 3) A policy of "no public officials" minimizes both the chances and impact of charges that the committee is manipulated by and serving to the advantage of its members holding public office.

The Crime Prevention Seminar: Getting the Facts. Once the committee has been appointed, the first step should be to provide them with a thorough understanding of the philosophy and effectiveness of crime prevention and the role each segment of the population can play in reaching crime prevention goals. This phase may best be completed through a one- or two-day introductory seminar planned, directed, and staffed ideally by the department's ranking crime prevention officer. In the absence of a crime prevention bureau, supervision of the conference is best entrusted to one of the chief's top assistants, preferably one with an interest in crime prevention. Officers chosen to staff the committee should definitely have formal and practical instruction in crime prevention; their crime analysis and suggestions will be relied upon to define the committee's priorities.

The seminar should be comprehensive and professional, experienced outside experts should be imported if possible and any local talent utilized. The first conference day should familiarize committee members with basic crime prevention theory and practice. The second day members should decide on long-range plans and immediate activities, breaking down into subcommittees once major program areas have been identified.

Valid goal-setting is dependent upon a thorough understanding of community crime. The police department has the responsibility to develop and convey this information. Weeks before the conference convenes police officers, possibly working with their city's planning department, should begin a comprehensive analysis of the crime problem. Crime target patterns should be identified and methods of crime operations examined. Since traditional crime data is incomplete because of "underreporting" or faulty reporting, there is a need for victimization surveys.

The role of effective evaluation of the crime problem cannot be overstressed. Only when specific problem areas have been statistically defined can the advisory committee make any kind of intelligent choice on what problems need to be addressed and how it should organize to solve those problems.

If the police officers staffing the committee do not present a clear, concise report, the committee will be lost in false starts and dead ends. By identifying specific problems, the officers can focus the efforts of the committee, as well as provide a base of information from which to evaluate programs.

Once the committee has been familiarized with the issue and organized for action, they should plan for ways to introduce the public to crime prevention and solicit their support. Since crime prevention is based on cooperation from all residents, this step can be extremely important. The task might best be completed through a "Crime Prevention Campaign."

The Crime Prevention Campaign. Dramatic results can occur when community resources are directed to crime prevention for an entire month. Although the long range plan, of course, is to maintain and expand crime prevention programs, eventually adopting them as an on-going police function, the kick-off campaign serves to gain community support and build momentum for com-

munity involvement in upcoming prevention programs.

First, basing decisions on data already generated by the staff, the committee should agree on campaign goals, select a month, and break down into work groups to accomplish specific tasks. Groups for finance, advertising and publicity, and program (with sections for neighborhood, business, schools, the elderly and the role of city government) might be suggested.

Before the campaign begins make sure enough information on community crime data has been collected so that the public can compare crime rates before and after the campaign and judge the effectiveness of crime prevention for themselves.

Begin the campaign with a big attraction, perhaps a citizen's crime prevention breakfast and/or a "safe city exposition" where police officers and neighborhood associations could use booths, displays, and exhibits to communicate the ideas behind crime prevention. Area neighborhood associations can devote their monthly meeting to neighborhood crime and its prevention, using local patrolmen as resource people. Newspapers, radio and television can run special programming on city crime and publish or broadcast daily "Crime Prevention Tips."

Hold frequent press conferences detailing the results of the campaign, using examples of real crimes and showing how they could have been prevented. During the campaign form and train a city-wide Citizens' Crime Prevention Corps to give residential security surveys. The advisory committee should meet during the campaign to assess effectiveness and make strategy adjustments if necessary.

After the campaign the advisory committee should announce the results, describe the service of the Citizens' Crime Prevention Corps and unveil plans for the future, explaining the advisory committee's function as a partner and aid to the police in developing and supporting crime prevention programs. The full committee should continue to meet regularly, generating ideas for future police crime prevention efforts and relaying community feedback.

The activities and influence of the Citizens' Crime Prevention Advisory Committee will differ with every town and city. It is mentioned here as a tool of proven effectiveness that will work well given the interest and commitment of its members.

FUNDING A CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

Locally. With the tenuous and temporary nature of all federal and state crime prevention funding, the best place to look for staff and programming is *in the local community*. The real commitment of the police department will provide neighborhood programs with all the assistance they will need. The support of the business community will produce free advertising. Operation ID engravers and brochures can be donated by printing concerns. One crime prevention bureau even had its vehicle donated. Of course, most of the manpower comes from community residents who voluntarily give their time to keep their family, home and community safe.

Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The national LEAA, the main conduit through which federal money flows into local crime prevention and criminal justice programs.

Ohio. Ohio alone has several million dollars in LEAA crime prevention money distributed each year by the Administration of Justice of the Department of Economic and Community Development. A large percentage has been earmarked for *Operation Crime Alert* and the *Division of Crime Prevention*, Ohio's statewide crime prevention program which includes among its activities the funding of specially selected, innovative community programs.

Other Public Funding Sources. *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.* HUD sponsors a little-used program offering burglary and robbery insurance for residents of high crime areas. Businessmen and residents of homes and apartments in these areas must install security hardware meeting federal standards before they can be accepted into the program. Details and application forms for the program can be secured from any licensed property insurance agent, broker or servicing company.

For further information call the Federal Crime Insurance Program at 1-800-688-8780.

Private Funding Sources. The best possible private sources for local crime prevention program funding are community-based foundations. The large national foundations—Ford, Mellon, Lilly—are more interested in impacting national problems. Local foundations are usually committed to spending within their communities' boundaries and their support lends credibility to any attempt to attract funds in the public sector. The approval of the project by the community it serves is a powerful endorsement. Unfortunately, local private money available for crime prevention-type programs is at a premium and in great demand.

Because each local foundation has different priorities and application deadlines, contact each one to see if it would be interested in receiving an application from a crime prevention program. Foundations in a community can be found by consulting the *Charitable Foundations Directory of Ohio*, published by the Attorney General's Office, Charitable Foundations Section, 15th Floor, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Crime prevention doesn't pretend to solve Ohio's entire crime problem, but it does provide a rational, simple and proven way for all citizens to feel safer and more secure by developing the greatest possible safety resource — the citizens themselves.

Where people care, crime prevention works.

Resources

Operation Crime Alert and the Division of Crime Prevention. Ohio's statewide crime prevention program provides interested community groups with informative pamphlets, brochures and other material through local police departments. The program also funds innovative crime prevention projects throughout Ohio and supplies technical assistance to both citizens and police. (Operation Crime Alert, 26th Floor, State Office Tower, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215; 614/466-7682.)

Administration of Justice, Department of Economic and Community Development. Ohio's agency for federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funds allots at least 15% of its annual program budget to local crime prevention programs. Planning cycle begins in mid-autumn. (Administration of Justice, 25th Floor, State Office Tower, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215; 614/466-7610.)

Ohio Commission on Aging. The Commission's "Seniors Against Crime" project specializes in providing crime prevention information to Ohio's elderly and presents crime prevention programs throughout the state. (Seniors Against Crime, Ohio Commission on Aging, 50 West Broad Street, 9th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215; 614/466-5508.)

Ohio Crime Prevention Association. This statewide organization of professionals and volunteers interested in crime prevention provides local communities or organizations with technical assistance through its own members in the area. The Association also supplies information on crime prevention programs already in operation in nearby communities. (Ohio Crime Prevention Association, c/o Division of Crime Prevention, P.O. Box 1001, 26th Floor, Columbus, OH 43216; 614/466-7682.)

Ohio Citizens' Council

The Ohio Citizens' Council (OCC), long involved in criminal justice issues in the state, completed a 2-1/2-year Crime Prevention Project in November, 1977. It was funded by a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; Administration of Justice, Ohio Department of Economic and Community Development.

This manual was produced as part of that project — the first and only statewide effort of its kind educating and involving citizens in crime prevention programs.

In addition to criminal justice, OCC works in other human service areas including Title XX social services, welfare and health. OCC monitors both the legislative and administrative arms of state government that deal with these areas. In addition, OCC provides special services to United Ways throughout Ohio.

Anyone interested in one or more of OCC's programs is encouraged to join by writing OCC, 155 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Membership costs \$10 per year. OCC members receive up-to-date information on Ohio's human services through publications called *Spotlights* plus special educational materials including "How a Bill Becomes a Law in Ohio" and a roster of the members of the General Assembly. Members also receive reduced rates for OCC's publications, the *Administrative Report*, *Legislative Bulletin* and *Title eXXchange* as well as the opportunity to join with others all over Ohio in working for improvements in specific human services in the state.

OCC receives support from 59 United Ways in Ohio.

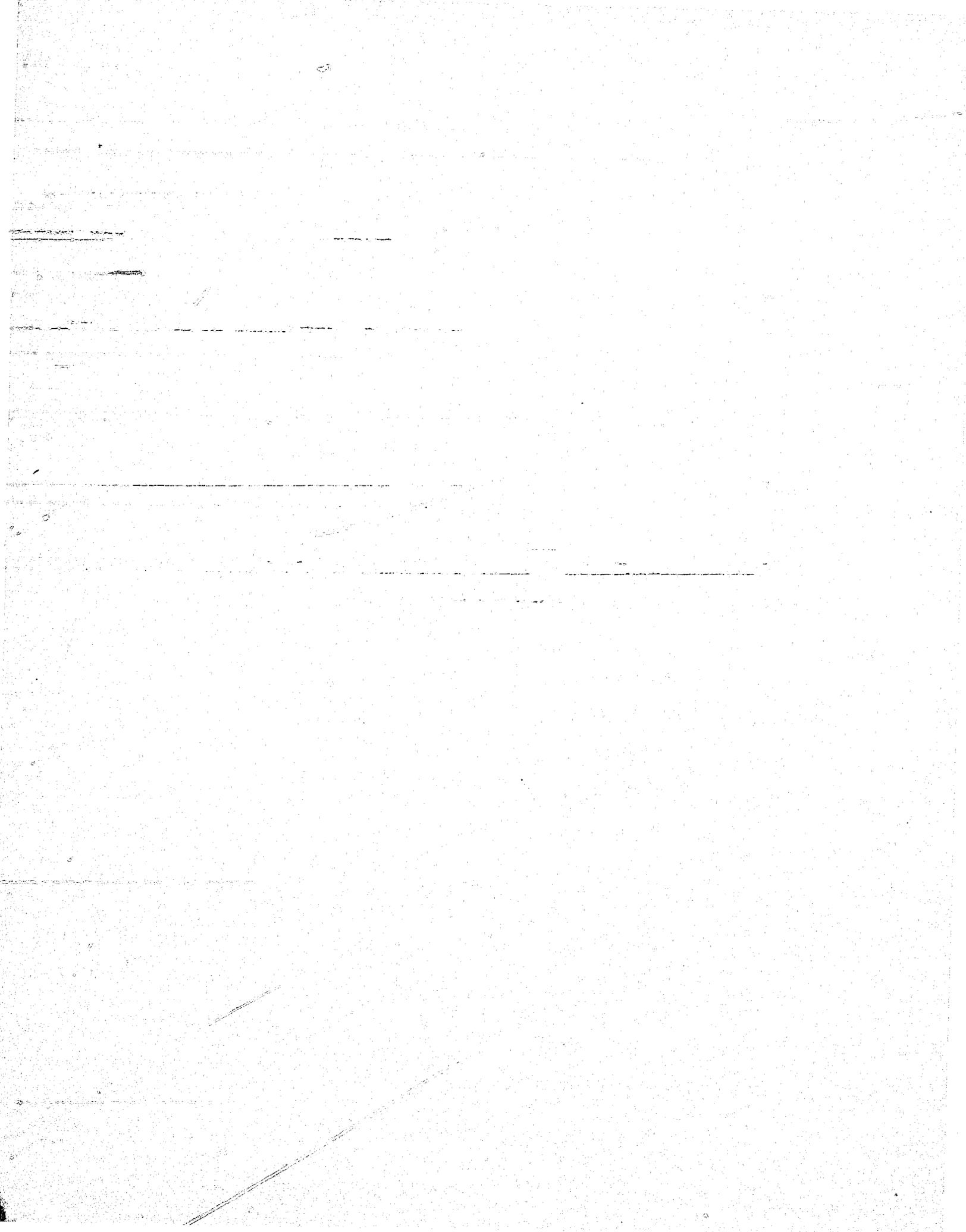


you'll learn:

- Home and personal security techniques.
- Programs for a block, a neighborhood, or a city.
- How to organize a community-wide crime prevention campaign.



Ohio Citizens' Council
Room 300, 155 N. High St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215



END