

Proposal to Disband NWC Committee Rita Nemeth – February 2022

As Chairperson of the Crosswoods Neighborhood Watch Committee (NWC), I herewith petition the Crosswoods HOA Board to consider disbanding the NWC committee and replace it with a Neighborhood Watch Program that is composed of a Coordinator & Watch Captains (charter for the new program attached). Below please find the justification I put forward for your consideration.

1. The charter is completely outdated. (Below are my observations specific to provisions of the current charter, please review it to correlate to my comments.)
 - a. First and foremost, Citrus Heights PD does not actively engage with, nor do they provide Neighborhood Watch training or guidelines. (The City of Citrus Heights does not host Neighborhood Watch webpages, either.)
 - i. CHPD does not provide information on their webpages about the Neighborhood Watch program. In fact, last August I reached out to CSO Larissa Aguilar to inquire about the missing information, (It did exist in mid to late 2019 but they removed it all by the time Covid hit). Her response to my inquiry was as follows, "Neighborhood Watch groups throughout Citrus Heights have transitioned to "Nextdoor" for their Neighborhood Watch communication. With social media, Neighborhood Watch communication has changed quite a bit and communication is almost instantaneous", therefore CHPD does not have a Neighborhood Watch liaison although they do have the two POP officers.
 - b. The Charter erroneously references, "minimum requirements of the police department." There is no prohibition (in the National program) regarding felony conviction and Neighborhood Watch participation, in fact that restriction is antithetical to the intent of the program.
 - c. Given that there are no guidelines to follow and therefore the committee cannot "ensure compliance with the CHPD's guidelines," this Committee is without a mandate.
2. There are no business or other activities within the community that require the involvement of the NWC. The Watch Captains typically operate independently and do not ask anything of the committee.
3. Lack of interest and participation.
 - a. Committee members often don't bother to attend quarterly meetings.
 - b. Captains don't attend the meetings nor do other residents.
 - c. And lastly, the most common concerns raised by the rare few that attend a meeting have been regarding wildlife and how the landscape is or is not maintained indicative of what most of the residents seems to be concerned with.

I believe it would be a better investment of time and energy to dissolve the committee and instead ask the current NW groups to designate a lead Captain to coordinate, communicate and to provide updated resident lists. I've provided a draft version of a "charter," detailing how the NW Program Coordinator position could function. It is included in your packet.

Note also, the present expectation for the NWC chairperson is to create and present resident and map templates. The resident and map templates were created last year and were distributed to every captain and were well received. The templates won't need to be updated any time soon and can be made available to download and print from the Crosswoods webpages.

If participation in the future National Night Out and other social activities are desired, the Board might consider creating a social committee for that purpose. Likely that would generate more interest from homeowners. Many are already very involved with their social groups within the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,

Rita Nemeth
NWC Chairperson

—This Proposal approved by the Crosswoods Board of Directors on February 23, 2022. Implementation of the Neighborhood Watch Program to begin immediately; current NWC Chairperson to serve as interim Coordinator until replacement is identified.