



**CHAMPAIGN  
COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
WATCH**



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: THE BASICS

- ✓ PURPOSE -- To help Law Enforcement by acting as their extra set of eyes and ears to help prevent crime and vandalism and deterring criminal activity
- ✓ ANYONE CAN JOIN -- Homeowner or renter, young or old, married or single
- ✓ CAN FORM A WATCH AROUND ANY GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT – A block, entire neighborhood, apartment complex, or business area
- ✓ LIMITATIONS – Watch groups are not vigilantes; purpose is to aid Law Enforcement



# STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: THE PHASES

## PHASE ONE

- ✓ Create a small planning committee -- Discuss needs, the level of interest, and neighborhood issue/problems
- ✓ Contact the Sheriff's Office -- Have Neighborhood Watch Coordinator attend to help address any concerns or fears and provide information on criminal/suspicious activity in the neighborhood
- ✓ Hold initial neighborhood meeting -- Helps to gauge interest in the neighborhood for the formation of a Neighborhood Watch, and identify issues that need to be addressed



# STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: THE PHASES

## ■ PHASE TWO

- Ask for Block Captains -- Volunteers who are responsible for relaying information to other members
- Establish form of communication -- Phone trees, email, social media
- Create a informational booklet -- Have a neighborhood map showing names, phone numbers and addresses of participating households. Update as needed
- Post Neighborhood Watch Signs -- Ask Coordinator for resources



Law  
Enforcement  
Liaison

Planning  
Committee

Block  
Captains

Neighborhood  
Watch Team  
Members

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS

Neighborhood Watch Chain of  
Command Example

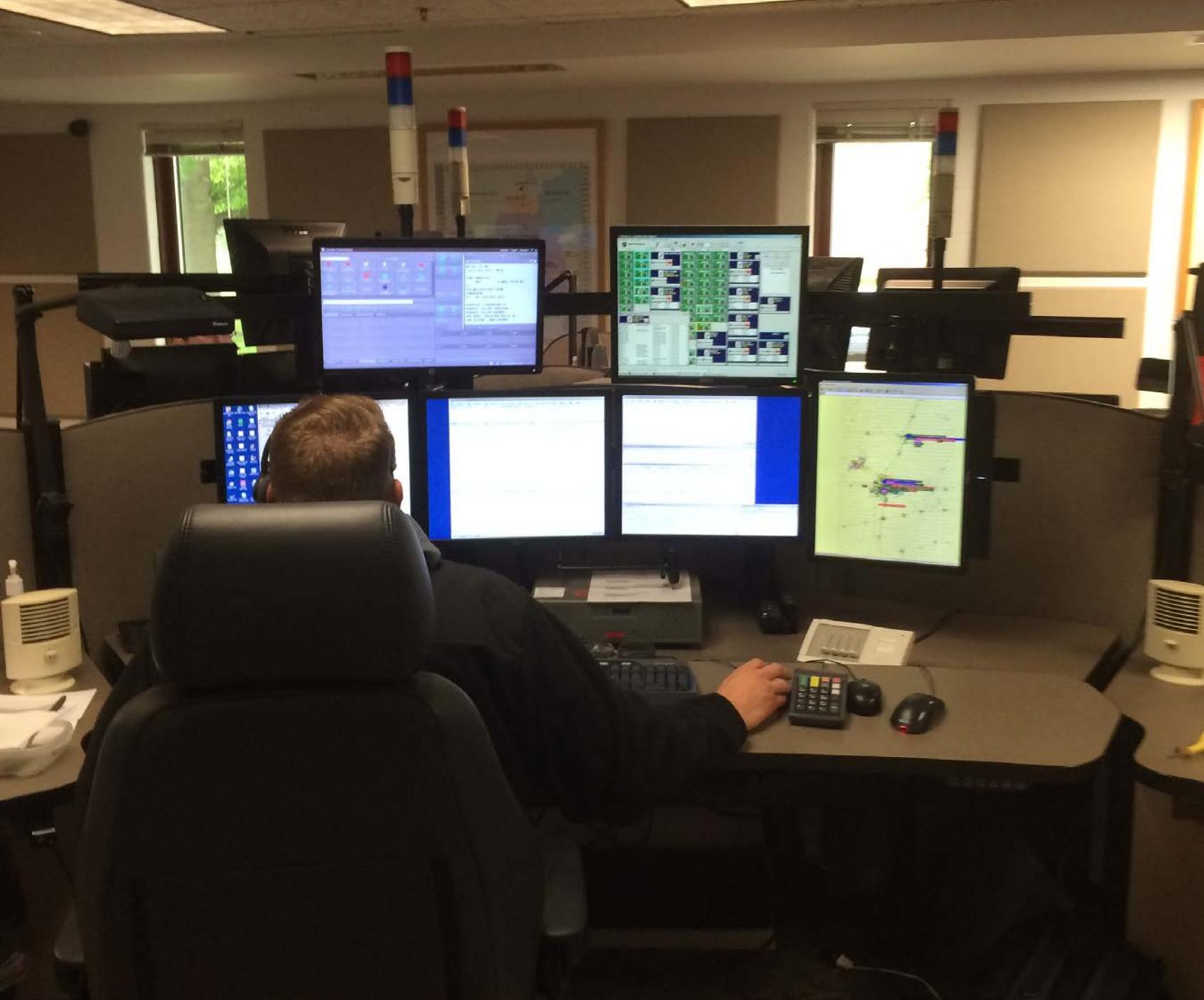


# EYES AND EARS OPEN!!

## ➤ Report suspicious activity

- Subjects looking into windows or parked cars
- Cars, Vans, or Trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination
- Strange vehicles or people in the area
- Unusual noises
- Unattended children
- Screams or arguing
- Breaking glass





## REPORT! CALL 911! METCAD

- Describe the Event -- What, Where, When, Why, and Who's involved
- Describe the Suspect – Race, Sex, Age, Height, Weight, Hair, Clothing, Last known direction of travel
- Describe Vehicles involved – Color, Make/Model, License Plate, Distinctive Characteristics, Last known direction of travel



# SAFETY TIPS

**RIGHT**



**WRONG**



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**RIGHT**



**WRONG**



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**RIGHT**



**WRONG**



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Hold regular meetings -- Helps residents get to know each other and to decide as a group upcoming strategies and activities
- Get information out quickly – Needs to be timely and relevant! Share all types of news about your area to prevent rumors and false information
- Sponsor neighborhood cleanups – Physical conditions like abandon cars and overgrown lots contribute to crime and suspicious activities
- Celebrate – Celebrate volunteers and their efforts. Have a block party and recognize each for their contributions

