

Neighborhood Watch 2020, A Year In Review



Denver Police District 3 Officers Wrap Up 2020 With One Of Their Largest Virtual Neighborhood Watch Training And Block Communicator Orientation

At a time when most people have had enough of virtual meetings and presentations, the desire for the community to partner with their Police Officers remains strong in DPD District 3. Officers continue to educate our community on how to effectively observe and report suspicious behavior, while emphasizing Neighborhood Watch's reason for success - residents building community connectivity while partnering with DPD! In the last year additional considerations have been added to our District 3 Neighborhood Watch program, including Implicit Bias information – helping residents to understand, it's the behavior not the person that is suspicious. Thus, giving Residents the knowledge, confidence and permission to appropriately report suspicious behavior to the Police. Evidence of this growing program was supported by the large, virtual attendance at the most recent Neighborhood Watch Action and Awareness Training and Block Communicator Orientation, which wrapped up our Neighborhood Watch virtual presentations for 2020. Special thanks to two of our Denver City Councilwomen who helped to inform residents about important opportunities to connect with our Officers through District 3's Neighborhood Watch program.

Sending acknowledgement and appreciation for all of you who partner with our Officers and our communities through Neighborhood Watch – THANK YOU!

Community Helps Bring Holiday Cheer To Our Dedicated 911 Dispatchers

With so many First Responders to thank for all their efforts during 2020, our 911 Dispatchers are especially deserving for their contributions to our Community and City. DPD Volunteers felt one way to spread some Holiday Cheer and show gratitude to our Dispatchers was through a digital Holiday card. Emails were sent out to our District 3 Neighborhood Watch Community about this special project, informing them on how they could share their Holiday greetings in this community-wide card for our Dispatchers. Residents who wanted to be involved sent their heartfelt messages, including many neighborhood children who drew cards for our Dispatchers. One City Councilwoman even helped by using her social media platform to expand the reach of this special project. On Monday, December 21, our Dispatchers received a large Holiday Card measuring 5 feet tall and 10 feet wide along with this virtual Holiday card:

https://youtu.be/ct3ewxN_yGM



Local Business Offers Support To A Fallen DPD Officer's Family

In 2020 many District 3 businesses have been going above and beyond to support our Officers. In September, a District 3 Business raised funds to provide thousands of dollars in lifesaving equipment for our District 3 Officers. Again, this same business stepped up in December when a Fallen Officers Family needed help after being stricken with cancer again. This District 3 business again went above and beyond to give our Fallen Officer's family an amazing Christmas. The family shared their gratitude by saying, "thank you for making Christmas special again!"

Let's show our Officers we care!
Turn the Wall Blue!

Each ribbon on the Station wall represents one person in our community who **SEES, SUPPORTS, NEEDS and APPRECIATES** our Law Enforcement Officers.

Operation: Turn The Wall Blue

Who: Everyone who supports our Officers!

Where: District 3 (1625 S. University Blvd) – Lobby Hours 6 am to 9 pm – daily
South wall of Station Lobby – area will be marked and visible from public entrance.

What: Place one BLUE ribbon on the south wall of the Station Lobby for each member of your household/family. Any blue ribbon will work. Need a ribbon... ribbons available to the side of this display.

When: ASAP

Operation Turn The Wall Blue –

This project came about in an effort to boost Officer morale while allowing the community to voice their support anonymously. Residents visited our District 3 Station Lobby to post their blue ribbon on this wall. The show of support on this project continues to grow. These Blue Ribbons on District 3's lobby wall remind Officers we see, support, need and appreciate them!!



Quick Action Ensures Officers and Children Can Celebrate Together!

With only a few days notice, Officers and DPD Volunteers worked quickly to reimagine how children and Officers could connect for Halloween. After the cancellation of District 3's drive-thru trick-or-treating event, this quick action led to DPD's first virtual Children's Celebration! Stories, jokes, and STEM projects were just a few of the highlights from this memorable Halloween event. DPD Volunteers made sure the children weren't the only ones in costume for this festive event, and dressed up District 3 Patrol Cars in Halloween costumes too. In addition to our children meeting our Officers virtually, each child who participated in this Spooktacular event received a personalized letter in the mail from our Officers which included a certificate for a free happy meal. Officers reminded children in their letter that they are here to help and there doesn't have to be an emergency for them to connect with our Officers. This type of important communication opens the door for children to see our Officers as helpers in the community who are here to support our youth. After this presentation Officers and Volunteers spent the afternoon surprising children with Halloween prize buckets filled with candy and other fun DPD prizes. The feedback from families who participated in this event was supportive and heartwarming!



Denver Police Department District 3 presents a virtual...
Station Spooktacular
Saturday, October 31st @ 11 am & Noon
11 am (ages 6 and under) & NOON (ages 7 and up)

Even the Police cars are dressing up for this one-of-a-kind Virtual Station Spooktacular! Officers will be reading festive Halloween stories, sharing a joke or riddle, asking fun Halloween trivia questions and showing off their Patrol Car's costumes. Wear your Halloween Costume to be entered to win a Halloween Boo Bucket – Full of candy and prizes delivered by a Denver Police Officer (conspicuous delivery). All participants will receive a letter from a Denver Police Officer in the mail with a coupon for a Free Happy Meal at participating District 3 McDonald's.

To participate in this virtual event, RSVP to district3media@denvergov.org. The link and instructions will be emailed to you. Be sure to include which Station (conspicuous or not in front) you would like to participate in. Denver residents who provide their address with their RSVP will receive a personalized letter from a Denver Police Officer with a Free Happy Meal coupon and will be entered to win a Halloween Boo Bucket.

LOCK OUT CRIME



Overwhelming Support For District 3's First Youth Virtual Celebration Inspires Officers To Celebrate Thanksgiving In A Fun New Way This Year!

Thanksgiving offered Officers another holiday-themed opportunity to connect with our youth and have a blast while doing it! Dozens of families participated in this Thanksgiving Celebration. In addition to Division Chief Thomas reading a story to the children, Officers raced, shook and cheered while sharing many fun STEM themed activities, culminating with our Turkey Ziplining Races!



Part of this presentation included a visit to DPD's Horse Stables introducing participants to our Denver Police Horses – here is a link to this brief introduction <https://youtu.be/zmteqKlw5GA> Each child also received a personalized letter and free Happy Meal certificate from our District 3 Community Resource Officer's reminding children they can reach out to our Officers anytime, not just for emergencies. The feedback from this event was so supportive, even those in the community who didn't have children chimed in on their support for this type of Officer – Youth engagement.

Denver Police District 3 Officers are thankful for YOU! To show their appreciation they are throwing a virtual **Turkeytastic Celebration at the Station!** Everyone is invited! It will be a gobble, gobble good time!
Wednesday, November 25th
10:00 am (6 and under) & **11:00 am** (6 and older)
RSVP to district3media@denvergov.org for link and instructions to participate*
*Families who wish to provide their address with their RSVP will receive a personalized letter from a Denver Police Officer with a Free Happy Meal coupon for participating District 3 McDonald's

Officers will be reading fun, festive stories about gratitude and Thanksgiving cheer! We will take a special virtual trip to DPD's Police Stables and meet our Mounted Patrol Police Horses! Officers will also be sharing some silly jokes and demonstrating some fun STEM projects that you can repeat at home on your Thanksgiving break. Bring your questions - Officers and Mounted Patrol look forward to live interactions with you too. Gobble, gobble!



She Got Involved And Is Making A Difference!

Inspired to become a DPD Volunteer after hearing about her 90-year-old neighbor being carjacked at gunpoint, this volunteer knew in order to build a safer community she and her neighbors needed to work together with our District 3 Officers to combat crime. And that is just what she did, after attending a Neighborhood Watch Action and Awareness training. This new DPD Volunteer, reached out to her HOA and shared what she had learned. She also began to educate her neighbors on how they too could participate in Neighborhood Watch. Within a few months it was official, not only was she a proud new DPD Volunteer who had inspired renewed participation from community members for Neighborhood Watch, but she also had been recognized from her community for her crime prevention efforts by being elected to her HOA Board!



Communication Is Key!

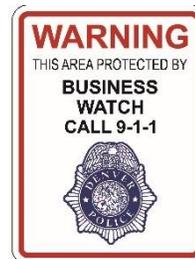


DPD Volunteers in District 3 have played a vital role in reimagining how to solve new communication challenges in 2020 because of COVID limitations. One of the many ways DPD Volunteers have helped to maintain Neighborhood Watch awareness between Officers and Residents is through flyer communications. In fact, in 2020, one DPD couple alone helped to create and distribute more than 20,000 flyers directly to Residents' homes across DPD District 3. These flyers provided helpful information regarding who to contact for matters that required Police attention, how neighbors can take responsibility for their neighborhoods safety through District 3's Neighborhood Watch program, and ensuring residents know our Officers are here to help and want to partner with their communities to build safer and more inclusive neighborhoods for everyone in District 3!

Special thanks and recognition everyone in our community who has helped to distribute flyers in person and virtually to your neighbors to help share information about your community's safety and Neighborhood Watch in 2020!

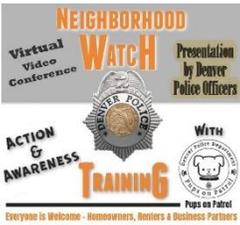
Powerful Message from Murder Victim's Father

In November of 2018, a SE Denver resident was killed while he was walking home from dinner at a local restaurant. Shortly after this tragedy more than 70 members of this community attended a meeting at the DPD District 3 Station to find out how they could prevent this horrible tragedy from happening again. It was the 5th murder this small Neighborhood had experienced that year. Officers introduced these residents to DPD District 3's Neighborhood Watch program. Neighbors in this community began connecting with each other as their participation in Neighborhood Watch grew. Throughout the last year this Neighborhood Watch community has remained in contact with the victim's family. Even with COVID restrictions, they rallied around the victim's family by being present during the court trial. One DPD Volunteer who had helped this community establish their neighborhood watch program also attended a portion of this trial. While leaving the courtroom this volunteer shared a brief moment with the victim's father who said, "if I have one message for DPD it is to be involved in the community, and to tell the community what is going on". This volunteer was able to share with the victim's father about all the work those in the community had done and will continue to do to build upon the type of communication this victim's family would like to see between residents and DPD. *Note: The suspect in this case was found guilty on all charges. The DA credited the success of this case at trial to the exemplary work done by our DPD Detectives and Officers.*

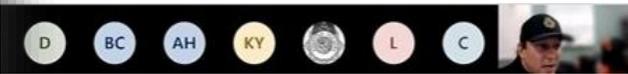


DPD District 3 Officers Roll Out Their Business Watch Program Even While City Was Shuttered

Shortly after our City was forced to shut down due to COVID precautions our city saw a rise in business related crimes. Our District 3 Community Resource Officers worked quickly to roll out their Business Watch program when our city needed it the most. Officers were able to supply businesses with posters and offer crime prevention strategies. While Officers did their best to contact many community businesses, DPD Volunteers also helped by calling businesses to alert them to this much needed program. Volunteers then coordinated times for Officers to meet with each businesses management team to post signage and strategize crime prevention efforts. Our Community Resource Officers worked diligently during this spike in business crimes to do what they could to help our local businesses all while conducting extra patrols to increase visibility of Officer presence.



Virtual Exploration - 3, 2, 1.... Success!!

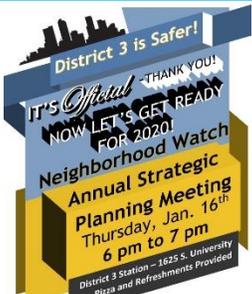


In March when our first wave of in-person restrictions began, Officers and DPD

Volunteers started conversations on the how current in-person community engagement, like District 3's Neighborhood Watch program, could be transitioned into virtual community engagement. While it was easy to share information digitally, it was important to our Officers that this engagement communicated information effectively. Thus, continuing to build upon the vital partnerships our District 3 Officers and Residents have attributed to helping connect neighbors and reduce crime, which is so well demonstrated by DPD District 3's Neighborhood Watch program. After a few trial and errors with various technology and digital platforms our Officers have temporarily shifted our Neighborhood Watch program successfully into virtual communications until in person communication can begin again. One Officer even held a fun, virtual game night. Participants were residents who help coordinate District 3's Neighborhood Watch program. Many shared success stories about their Neighborhood Watch efforts that we would not have been able to hear about otherwise.

Officers Get Creative To Stay Present In Our Neighborhood Engagement

Our District 3 Community Resource Officers revised and downsized their in-person community outreach events related to Neighborhood Watch, so when possible, Officers did their best to be present in their communities. Good weather and lots of outdoor space was key to making these connections possible.



An Amazing Show Of Support From District 3 Communities And Their Leadership

Officers and DPD Volunteers worked together to produce this one-of-a-kind DPD Neighborhood Watch event. This event was so unique it had never existed in Denver or surrounding jurisdictions before. In January of 2020, more than 60 community Leaders from across District 3 came together with District 3 Community Resource Officers for District 3's Neighborhood Watch Annual Strategic Planning Meeting. This unique event was held at the District 3 Station giving participants an opportunity to show their support for our Officers and their Neighborhood Watch efforts in their communities. Officers were also able to share their appreciation for all the efforts these Leaders had been accomplishing in their communities. These Leaders represented their RNO's, HOA's, Citizen Groups and Neighborhood Watch Communities. During this large roundtable meeting Leaders shared what was working well, their community's safety concerns, and what support they would like to see from our Officers as we moved through 2020. Each attendee completed a questionnaire to help set up a communication plan and action goals with our Officers for the coming year. Leaders also took a survey on their views of Neighborhood Watch's effectiveness thus far and their predictions for its success moving forward. The results of the surveys showed Community Leaders overwhelmingly agreed that Neighborhood Watch and the partnership they have built with our Officers has helped to reduce crime and promote neighborhood connectivity in their communities. Leaders also predicted that Neighborhood Watch involvement and their partnerships with our District 3 Officers would be essential to reducing crime and building a community-supported neighborhood safety program.

Year End Thoughts...

As I gathered information for this newsletter I did something a little different than I would normally do when giving acknowledgement to all those who made 2020 such a meaningful year. I did my best not to use anyone's name thus far. This by no means is to take away from all the amazing work being done by Officers, Volunteers, Residents and Businesses mentioned above. Please allow me to explain, what I have realized in my time Volunteering with DPD, is what makes Neighborhood Watch such a powerful crime prevention tool, not to mention a catalyst for community connectivity, is all the pieces that make this program whole. Without the whole, this program loses its purpose, and by whole I mean each and every person and relationship that contributes to the sum of Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch is only whole because of each resident, neighbor, business, volunteer, city servant and Officer committed to partner and care for one another. I am also speaking about every resident who is not part of a Neighborhood Watch email list, but has cared enough to "see something, say something" and watch out for their fellow neighbor. This past year, more than any other I can remember, we spent more time getting to know our neighbors, and not only know them, but care about their well-being. There were so many heartwarming stories shared with me about neighbors helping neighbors as COVID took its wrath on our city. Many credited Neighborhood Watch as having helped establish neighborly connections so when this virus hit, it was easier for neighbors to communicate with each other. 2020 was a year where we saw dramatic increases in crime in many of our neighborhoods. And with this spike in crime, we saw neighbors and Officers, while limited by physical distance, working closer than ever to communicate and partner to keep our neighborhoods safe. There were so many stories shared with me in 2020, about neighbors rallying around each other after a crime had occurred in their community. Residents worked together to use the skills they have learned through Neighborhood Watch to help Officers solve the crimes that have occurred in their communities and to be there for one another as the frustration and fear worked itself out. So as we celebrate each of the above mentions in this newsletter, please know that YOU, who makes up part of this whole, are every bit as deserving of acknowledgment and gratitude as the above mentioned.

Cheers to 2021 and THANK YOU for caring about our community!! Christie – DPD Volunteer.



Favorite Moments of 2020 & Crime Prevention Tips For 2021 From Our District 3 Community Resource Officers

Officer Mike Borquez

I was asked to share my favorite moment or moments from 2020. There were several so, I thought about how I could narrow these moments down to just a few, making me realize how much I appreciate and value my relationships with each and every one of you. This year especially, many residents called me to share a safety concern or to ask what they could do to better protect themselves and their neighbors as crime increased. Some residents, shaken by all that was going on in our city, just needed to know someone was listening. These thoughts helped me realize my favorite moment could not be narrowed to just one or two instances, but rather it's a collaboration of all my relationships built with all of you. So when you have a safety question or you just need someone to listen to your safety concern, know that I am here to help. To each of you who I have shared a moment with in this past year, all of you combined make up my favorite part of 2020. I hope I can continue to serve you and all the residents in our city for many years to come.

Crime Prevention Tip: Get Involved! Get to know your neighbors, attend a Neighborhood Watch Training, and help prevent crimes of opportunity (lock doors and windows, remove valuables from vehicles, park in well-lit areas, close your garage door, use a Club steering wheel lock, remove packages/mail from porch immediately, and keep up the appearance you are home).

Officer Matthew Grimsley

This year I was very impressed with how the citizens of District 3 were able to adjust to virtual meetings and events to keep open communication with the District 3 CRO's.

Crime Prevention Tip: If you own firearms, make sure they are secured in a safe place.

Officer Kate Young

As the newest CRO that came into the role right at the start of COVID-19 and all the shutdowns/restrictions that came along with it, I would say my favorite moment was learning this aspect of the job. Being on patrol a lot of times you are interacting with people on the worst day of their lives. As a CRO, this side of the job is completely different and you are able to help problem solve, help people work through issues, interact with people in a completely different light, and provide first-hand police perspective/experience on community issues.

Crime Prevention Tip: Take those garage door openers out of your cars!

Officer Antonio (AJ) Pacheco

I would say my favorite part of the year was when the lockdowns first started - seeing how the community and business owners along Broadway came together to put up artwork on boarded up businesses to inspire hope.

Crime Prevention Tip: Always take your keys (especially key fobs) out of your vehicles even when you park them in a garage.