

**New Hanover County Sheriff's Office
Crime Awareness and Prevention Unit**

Date: June 28, 2017

Dear River Bluffs Community,

Thank you for your interest in the Community Watch program offered through the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office. The program is supported and maintained through deputies in the Crime Awareness and Prevention Unit.

This program is a joint effort between the citizens involved and the Sheriff's Office. Its creation was based around the philosophy that well-informed and properly educated residents can work together with deputies to actively reduce the amount of criminal activity and the potential for victimization in a particular area of the county. When citizens work hand-in-hand with local law enforcement on a consistent basis, the affected communities reflect a positive and noticeable difference. Citizens attending the meetings and actively implementing the practices and behaviors recommended by their Community Watch deputy will feel a sense of pride and accomplishment knowing that they are contributing directly to the betterment of their community, and more importantly, the reduction of crime.

The principle of the Community Watch program is learning to recognize the potential for a crime to occur while working, on your part as a resident, to realize and report any and all seemingly suspicious activity in your area to law enforcement. Please understand that you have a responsibility, as a member of your Community Watch, to be vigilant in observing criminal activity in your respective neighborhoods and to notify law enforcement immediately when you notice something potentially criminal. By initiating a Community Watch for your area, there is a high likelihood you will be selected as the "Block Captain," meaning that you will hold a leadership-style position and will be in charge of organizing your particular Community Watch and corresponding directly with a deputy.

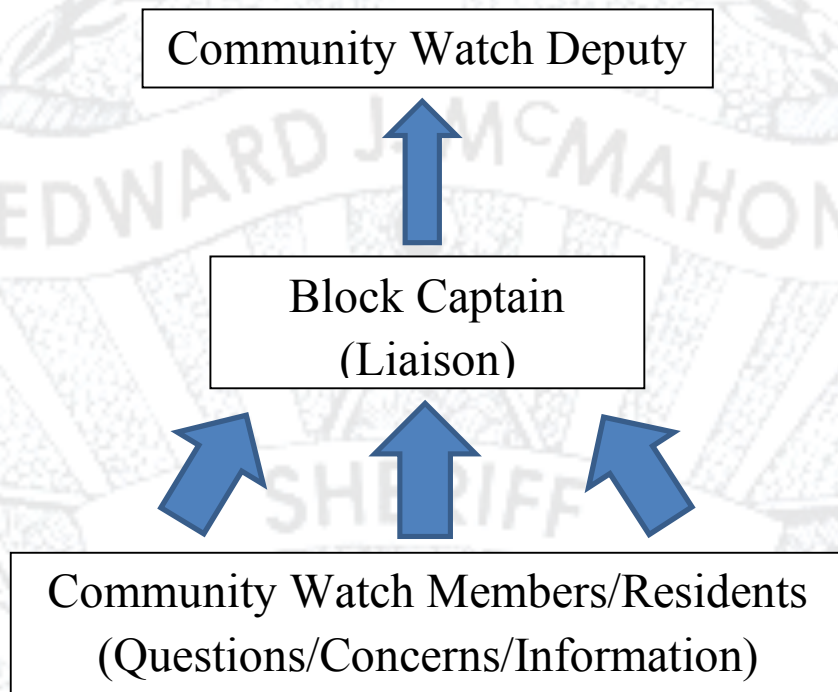
The following, is a general break-down of the program as a whole, designed to lay out the foundation of expectations and protocol from the Block Captain and from residents.

What you can expect from us:

- Professionalism
- A discussion of the criminal activity report of your area at meetings
- Answering questions directly from residents at meetings
- Establishing a relationship between residents and law enforcement
- Maintaining correspondence with the Block Captain via phone or email
- Guidance regarding Community Watch organization and recruitment
- Educational and informative discussions regarding safety and crimes
- Proactive suggestions on home security and staying vigilant
- **We cannot, and will not, enforce HOA policies or regulations**

What the deputy expects from the Block Captain:

- Checking with your deputy prior to scheduling your meetings
- Keeping the deputy's professional contact information private
- Acting as a liaison regarding all concerns and questions from residents
- Contacting 911 regarding all suspicious activity or people when discovered
- Active participation from residents and community members
- Keeping community members updated in between meetings
- Ideas, suggestions, or constructive comments regarding the program
- **When in doubt about something or someone suspicious, call 911**



This diagram is designed to show the communication flow regarding the members and residents of your community, your place as a Block Captain, and directing inquiries to the deputy.

On behalf of the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, thank you for taking a direct interest in making your community safer and a more enjoyable place to live and work. If you wish to further discuss starting a Community Watch, please contact the deputy whose business card accompanies this letter to schedule a date, time, and location to meet face-to-face. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Crime Awareness and Prevention Unit