

VINEVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
**CITIZENS ON PATROL**

In response to recent criminal activity in and around the Vineville Neighborhood, the VNA Board requested information for the Citizens On Patrol program. After reviewing this information, the Board voted to implement Citizens On Patrol in the Vineville Neighborhood if – and only if – a sufficient number of our residents volunteered to participate.

It was the overwhelming sentiment of the board members that a household could – at most – pull a Citizens On Patrol evening shift (*i.e.* midnight to 4:00 a.m., or some time period thereabouts) once every 60 days. Given that each Citizens On Patrol shift *must* have a team of two people, VNA must have 120 volunteers to have shift run each evening. Fewer volunteers will mean fewer shifts. (For example, with 64 volunteers, VNA could run four shifts each week and preserve the 60 day rotation.)

Ultimately, the decision to move forward with the Citizens On Patrol program depends upon the number of volunteers who sign up. For those interested in participating, this information package contains the following documents:

- 1) Overview of Citizens On Patrol;
- 2) Citizens On Patrol Information Sheet to be completed by each potential volunteer; and,
- 3) GCIC Consent Form For State Wide Check to be completed by each volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer for Citizens On Patrol, please complete both the Information Sheet and the Consent Form and return them *in a sealed envelope with your name and telephone number on the outside* to Lars Anderson, 163 Rogers Avenue, by March 31, 2009. Depending upon the number of envelopes submitted, the Board will decide whether or not to go forward with this program. If the Board votes to proceed with Citizens On Patrol, the sealed envelopes will be submitted to the Macon Police Department. If the Board votes not to move forward with this project, the sealed envelopes will be shredded.

Please contact Lars Anderson ([lars@rlarsanderson.com](mailto:lars@rlarsanderson.com) or 743-3447) with any questions or concerns.

# **Citizens on Patrol**

## **What is Citizens on Patrol?**

- Citizens on Patrol Program is an extension of the activity and philosophy of Neighborhood Watch.
- Citizens on Patrol are a trained group of people organized to increase the safety of their neighborhood.
- They patrol their streets to provide a presence and report incidents and problems.
- They are non-confrontational and coordinate with the police.

## **Purpose of Citizens on Patrol**

- To provide a visible presence on the streets as a deterrent to criminal activity.
- Having concerned residents on the street actively watching sends a clear message to strangers in the neighborhood that crime will not be tolerated.
- Thieves, vandals and drug dealers don't wish to be observed so the presence of law-abiding residents alone can reduce some crime.
- A secondary purpose of the patrols is to report suspicious or illegal activities to the police.
- The police rely heavily on citizens to tell them about crime incidents and suspects.
- These patrols can provide timely information to the police, which can help apprehend criminals.

Beyond these reasons, patrols provide an opportunity for citizens to participate in activities that improve their community and can provide a grass roots organization that can react to other threats to the livability of the neighborhood.

## **Locations for Citizens on Patrol**

Citizens on Patrol typically operate in three different environments:

- Residential neighborhoods
- Main streets or business districts
- Parks.

Different patrol settings call for some variance in organization and operation. At times, specific community safety issues will require citizens to work with Youth and Intervention staff to organize specialized patrols. These patrols may go beyond the Neighborhood Watch basis and require agreements outlined on the next page.

### **Neighborhood Patrol**

The usual purpose of these patrols is to reduce drug dealing, burglaries, thefts, and vandalism in a residential area. To insure that patrol members know the neighborhood and the neighborhood is organized, the majority of the patrol area must be organized into block watches. This provides the base for the patrol to work from.

### **Business District Patrol**

These patrols are often oriented towards making the streets safe to walk, reducing assaults and criminal mischief. When a patrol operates in a business district, members need to introduce themselves to all the business owners in the district. Often business owners will give emergency numbers to the patrol to call if they see any problems at their building.

## **Park Patrol**

Taking a park back from vandals, gangs, and drug dealing is a common motivation to organize these patrols. When a patrol will be operating in a park, additional training and ongoing activity will need to be coordinated with the Macon Police Department.

## **How does it work??**

Youth and Intervention staff will provide training to all initial and new Patrol members. Youth and Intervention staff will provide information on crime patterns and other resources as requested and appropriate. The Youth and Intervention Division will be the sponsoring organization for the Patrol and as such will:

1. Act as the Patrol's fiscal agent and hold ownership of all Patrol equipment,
2. be a central repository for all patrol records to allow public access,
3. act as a clearinghouse for complaints and concerns about patrol activities.

Youth and Intervention staff will assist Patrols in other ways as requested.  
What do the Police do?

The Macon Police will assist Youth and Intervention staff with patrol training. A police officer will be named as a liaison to the Patrol. The liaison officer will attend patrol meetings when appropriate. The Police will receive, review, and respond as necessary to Patrol incident reports. When the Patrol is on the street for more than an hour, the liaison officer will patrol with them.

## **Criteria for Citizens on Patrol Membership**

Citizens on Patrol Members will:

1. Not be confrontational or demand information from an unwilling person.
2. Not attempt to arrest or detain anyone.
3. Be "cool-headed" and able to back down from a confrontation

4. Not carry weapons of any kind (this includes mace products) while on patrol.
5. Not consume alcohol the day of the patrol
6. Always wear the designated identifying clothing while on patrol.
7. Carry some form of notebook to record pertinent data and flashlights during times of darkness.
8. Attend the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program training for Citizens on Patrols
9. Sign a Citizen Patrol volunteer agreement
10. Be an adult (18 years old or older)

**Currently:**

1. There are 115 members enrolled in the program
2. 60 active members
3. 55 inactive members
4. Members patrol on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7pm-11pm
5. Members patrol on Wednesday from 10am-2pm
6. Members patrol on Friday evenings from 9pm-12 midnight
7. Meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday of each month
8. Training session for Program Captains and members are held quarterly
9. Two Youth and Intervention Officers are assigned to the program

Goal for 2006: Increase Citizens on Patrol enrollment by 20%

Objective: Use current members for recruitment

Use the city's access channel



WAIVER

In consideration of the Macon Police Department authorizing the Undersigned to participate as a volunteer in the Citizens on Patrol Program, the Undersigned hereby expressly relieves and indemnifies and holds harmless the City of Macon, the Mayor and his successors in office, all employees of the City of Macon, the Chief of Police and the Police Department from any and all liability for bodily and personal injury and property damage in any way arising out of the Undersigned's participation in said Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS' SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE      DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS FULL NAME(print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARTICIPANT'S FULL LEGAL NAME

Sworn and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Georgia Crime Information Center

Consent Form for State Wide Check

~~I hereby authorize The Macon Police Department Central Records Unit~~ to receive any Georgia criminal history record information pertaining to me which may be in the files of any state or local criminal justice agency in Georgia.

Full Name (print)

Address

Telephone Number

M/F

Race

Date of Birth

Social Security Number

Please mark the appropriate type of Identification presented

- Drivers License
- Other Picture ID-Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

Special employment provisions (check if applicable):

- Employment with mentally disabled (Purpose code 'M')
- Employment with elder care (Purpose code 'N')
- Employment with children (Purpose code 'W')