



**TWELVE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD ...*Right Now!***



City of Sacramento
Neighborhood Services Department
921 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/ns>
(916) 808-6+, -



我們講中文
Hablamos Español
Мы говорим по-русски
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TWELVE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD...*Right Now!*

*The following list is intended to introduce the neighbor who has never participated in a crime prevention effort in simple steps that can be taken **RIGHT NOW** to begin making a difference.*

- 1. Report crime promptly.** Some neighbors don't report certain types of criminal activity because either they don't want to bother the police, they assume police are too short-staffed to respond, or they believe that there isn't much a police officer can do about a given problem anyway. Whether the issue is graffiti, petty vandalism, or something much more serious, police cannot act without first hearing about the problem from you. Calling won't guarantee that police can fix the problem, but failing to call can guarantee that they won't be able to. Also, don't assume someone else has called. Make the call yourself.
- 2. Report nuisances and other non-criminal problems promptly.** Examples: Junked cars on front lawns, abandoned autos in the streets, old mattresses left to rot away in a backyard, garbage dumped illegally in a vacant lot. When you find yourself thinking, "someone ought to *do something*," *do something*. Call code enforcement, non-emergency numbers, landlords, residents, local business owners, or any other person or agency that may have influence on the issue. Then call your neighbors and ask those who are also concerned about the issue to call and report as well. Then keep calling until the issue is resolved.
- 3. Take away the opportunity for crime.** Think about your home, your car, and even your lifestyle and ask what you could change to take away the opportunity for crime. Lock your car and *never* leave valuables in the car where would-be thieves might see them, not even for a few minutes. Trim bushes or trees on your property that offer too-convenient hiding places. Also trim trees and bushes that block a clear view of your front door and address from the street or make it difficult for a person to see out of windows in your home. In short, make your front porch visible and make sure your home looks like it has its "eyes" (windows) open.
- 4. Meet the youth who live on your block and greet them by name.** This is one of the simplest steps an adult can take, yet it can make a profound difference to the type of interaction possible should there be a future need for adults and young people to speak to each other in the midst of a neighborhood crisis. Also, it is difficult to help form a safe and supportive community for children without the adults and children knowing each other. Even those without children should know to whom the various children in the neighborhood belong. In this way, each adult is better able to help in an emergency and is better prepared to discuss problems immediately as they arise.
- 5. Make a list of the names and phone numbers of every neighbor on your block.** Not just two neighbors -set a goal of at least 10 and preferably 20 or 30. Find almost any citizen who has turned around a problem block and you will find a citizen who really knows the people who live there. Did you grow up in a neighborhood where "everyone knew each other" and find that today your neighborhood isn't like that? The same is true for many people. That's not "society's" fault. That's your fault, and you can fix it. Unless you know neighbors' names and numbers, you can't call them about a concern or let them know about a neighborhood problem. Learn the names and phone numbers of your neighbors this weekend.

6. **Make a list of landlords in your area as well.** As owners of property in the community, landlords are responsible to the community and most are rightly concerned about the health of the community in which their properties stand. You can find out the name and address of the person or organization that owns any property, including the rental house next door, by contacting your county tax assessor's office. Do it today.
7. **Turn your porch light on.** Do this every night at dusk and keep it on till dawn. Crime tends to decline in neighborhoods that are well lit. Turning on porch lights is a simple way to start this process. It also makes the street feel more "welcome" to good residents who are out for a walk in the evening. This also communicates a higher level of caring for the neighborhood by residents. This can become a daily routine or it can be accomplished by installing a timer. It is also immediate — while you wait for local government to install the new streetlight that everyone is asking for, go ahead and add a little more light yourself. Then encourage other neighbors to do the same.
8. **Walk around the block.** It sounds simple enough, but neighbors benefit over time when more responsible citizens walk about more, particularly, for those who are comfortable walking in the evening, every night around their block. At a minimum, make a commitment to walk around the block, once every day, preferably at night if you feel comfortable. Take a moment to chat with neighbors, including youth, when the opportunity arises.
9. **Drive *slowly* on neighborhood streets.** While we often call for stop signs, lights, and speed bumps, we sometimes forget that we can organize a means to slow down neighborhood traffic sooner. Remember that it is legal to drive a few miles per hour *below* the speed limit. For example, if the speed limit is 25, try 20 instead. Regular, slower driving on neighborhood side streets by multiple neighbors will dampen the desire of racers to use your street. It isn't as fun to cut through a neighborhood if the likelihood has increased of being stuck behind a car traveling at a more respectful pace. Also, do it on every side street in the neighborhood, not just the one near your home.
10. **Pick up the litter near your home, even if you didn't put it there.** Most people are less likely to litter where they don't see litter already. You can help stop the growth of trash in your neighborhood by taking away the existing litter that attracts it.
11. **Stay where you are.** Stable neighborhoods are built on the commitment of long-term residents who would rather live in a healthy community than move to a bigger house. Communities reach stability when conscientious citizens allow their roots to grow deep and help transform a geographic area that exists as a "neighborhood" in name only, into a real community of involved people. Please, stay and help.
12. **Help your neighborhood association or similar groups.** If you are willing, decide which greater contribution you would like to make — then take the lead and do it. If leadership isn't your desire, at least make sure someone in your household attends local neighborhood association meetings. You'll be kept better informed of the issues facing the neighborhood, how you can help and, perhaps more importantly, you'll have the chance to shape, guide, and participate in the future of your neighborhood.

Finally, don't stop at 12 tasks: Do whatever else you can to make your neighborhood a safe healthy, desirable place to live, work, learn and play. ***Remember: Living in a good neighborhood isn't a right; it's a responsibility.***

**To learn more about organizing and improving your neighborhood, contact the
City of Sacramento, Neighborhood Services Department
(916) 808-6789**

City Council District Representatives

City Hall

915 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: 264-7680

Council District 1

Ray Tretheway, Councilmember
808-7001

Council District 2

Sandy Sheedy, Councilmember
808-7002

Council District 3

Steve Cohn, Councilmember
808-7003

Council District 4

Robert Fong, Councilmember
808-7004

Community Centers

South Natomas Community Center
2901 Truxel Road
566-1571

Robertson Community Center
3525 Norwood Avenue, 95838
566-6419

Joe Mims Jr. Hagginwood Community Center
3271 Marysville Blvd
566-6439

Johnston Community Center
231 Eleanor Ave
566-6442

Useful Websites

City of Sacramento
www.cityofsacramento.org

Mayor and City Council
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/council/>

City of Sacramento, Departments and Services
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/webtech/govt/depts.htm>

City of Sacramento, Neighborhood Services Department
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/ns/>

Important Phone Numbers

Life and Property Emergency	911
City Police, Non-Emergency	264-5471
City Operator, 24hr.	808-5011
Mayor and City Council.....	808-5407
City Manager	808-5704
Animal Care Services	808-7387
Backyard Composting.....	808-4900
Broken Sewer or Water Pipe	808-7387
Clogged Storm Drains.....	808-5371
Code Enforcement.....	808-5948
Crime Alert.....	443-HELP
Crime Prevention – North Area.....	808-6418
Crime Prevention – South Area	808-6058
Garbage Refuse	808-4800
Graffiti Hotline	808-8819
Household Hazardous Waste	808-4938
Housing and Dangerous Bldgs.	808-5404
Illegal Dumping	808-5948
Neighborhood Traffic Mgmt	808-5307
On-Street Parking	808-5354
Outdoor Water Waste	808-5371
Parking Enforcement	808-5354
Parks and Recreation Dept.....	808-5200
Planning Division	808-5381
Recycling	808-4800
Sacramento County Assessor	875-0700
SMUD	888-742-SMUD
Street Lighting Repair	808-6313
Street Maintenance.....	808-6230
Traffic Investigation.....	808-6721
Traffic Signal Repair	808-6314
Tree Services.....	808-6345
Weed Abatement	808-5266

