



- I. Call to Order for West Highlands Neighborhood Watch Preliminary meeting for January 05, 2016
- II. Introductions
 - a. Inspector Lavonda Glenn, APD (lhglenn@atlantaga.gov or 404-309-7395) spoke and provided hand-outs regarding steps on how to start an official neighborhood watch program:
 - i. Establish a planning committee
 - ii. Organize a meeting of residents
 - iii. Identify problems and concerns
 - iv. Choose key players: coordinator and block captains
 - v. To get APD 'Neighborhood Watch' signs provided to the community, we must satisfy certain formal requirements including:
 1. Attend an APD Crime Prevention Neighborhood Watch Training (formal program currently on hold due to funding)
 2. Conduct at least 3 Neighborhood Watch Meetings per calendar year
 3. Accumulate points by doing at least 2 of the following:
 - a. Attend a National Night Out event
 - b. Block Captain's must attend NPU-G planning meetings at least 3x/year
 - c. Participate in a community clean-up
 - d. Join nextdoor.com (APD communicates through this site)
 - e. Attend outside training program such as A.C.E.R.T
 - f. Attend Fulton County Court Watch
 - g. Attend City of Atlanta's Citizen's Police or Fire Academy
 - vi. Take the Neighborhood Watch Pledge
 - vii. Conduct a Home Security Survey (we have a link to one on the HOA website www.westhighlandsatl.com)
 - b. Godreque Newsom (770-780-3252) and Etoy Ogletree (770-337-3944) from Protect Security spoke regarding current patrols within WH
 - c. Columbia Residential representatives Deborah Davis (ddavis@columbiaries.com), Tyrese Murphy (tmurphy@columbiaries.com), and Talia Purifoy (tpurifoy@columbiaries.com) were at the meeting and expressed desire to better link rental and single family communities in support of everyone's collective safety. They are interested in participating in Neighborhood Watch and request open communication throughout the community.
- III. Neighborhood Watch
 - a. Defined as an association of neighbors who look out for each other's families and property, alert the police to any suspicious activities or crime in progress, and work together to make their community a safer and better place to live.

- b. A number of community participants have been involved in Neighborhood Watch programs in the past
 - c. Approximately 12 community neighbors signed up to canvass the community and gauge interest in participating a neighborhood watch program. A survey will be created by CJ Mitchell to help track community interest.
- IV. Alternatives to a formal Neighborhood Watch
- a. Cameras – Nest, Costco, other options. Sarabeth Custin Stine agreed to take lead on investigation camera options and potential bulk-buying discounts for the community. The following will need to be considered:
 - i. Networking
 - ii. Storage options
 - iii. Future potential connections to security station
 - iv. It was also noted that a community map of camera locations should be developed, but there is not currently a point person to take charge of this.
 - b. Village Defense
 - i. The app (<https://appvillagedefense.com/villagedefense>) was discussed and a demo will be set-up for the follow up meeting in 2 weeks.
 - ii. The only other website or app suggestion was nextdoor.com, but this site was determined to be too general and broad reaching for our use at this time
- V. Task Options
- a. Identify block captains (initial canvas volunteers may become block captains, but if use of app is determined to be the preferred plan, block captains may not be required)
 - b. Captains would reach out to all neighbors on their block to communicate information regarding this meeting, discern interest in joining neighborhood watch group, collect contact information
 - c. It was noted by many at the meeting that creating/using a traditional phone tree system was not preferable.
- VI. Next steps
- a. Follow up safety meeting with neighbors in two weeks; propose January 19 at 7pm at WHCS to identify further security strategies
 - b. Bring collected contact information for further development
 - c. Establish a demo of the Village Defense App