How to Start a Neighborhood Watch Group in 5 Easy Steps

1. **Recruit and Organize as many neighbors as possible**
   It is wonderful that you are taking the steps to start a Neighborhood Watch group in your neighborhood. The first step is talking to your fellow neighbors about starting a group.

2. **Contact your local law enforcement agency and schedule a meeting**
   The next step is contacting your local law enforcement agency. Invite them to meet with your group at a time and place convenient for your Watch Group. It is essential for your group to work in collaboration with law enforcement because Neighborhood Watch is a cooperative effort.

3. **Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan**
   If law enforcement is unavailable to come to the first meeting you might want to have a meeting to discuss the concerns and issues in the neighborhood. Your group should create a plan on how to work towards lessening the impact of the top 3 concerns of neighbors.

4. **Create a communication plan**
   It is important to decide what type of communication will work for your watch group - meetings or social media or both.

5. **Take Action: Hold Meetings and Events**
   Neighborhood Watch Toolkit has a number of wonderful training topics and meeting ideas that can be useful to your group.

What are some of the benefits of starting a Neighborhood Watch Group?

- Partnerships with Law Enforcement and your Neighbors
- Reduction in Crime
- A More Secure and Better Prepared Hometown
- A More United Community
- Improved Communications