2005:

Caswell County Sheriff's Office, NC website

San Gabriel Police Department, CA website

Since joining the San Gabriel Police Department in March 1995, Officer Acosta has not only resurrected the city's dormant Neighborhood Watch program, but has developed it into one of the most widely recognized crime prevention programs in the San Gabriel Valley. Many Southern California cities have actively sought his expertise in creating equally successful programs. Officer Acosta has aggressively expanded the Department's crime prevention program through the Business Alert Network (BAN); Block Captain's training workshop and National Night Out Against Crime. He played a leadership role in developing the City's Building Security Ordinance – the first in the City of San Gabriel and the only active ordinance of its kind in the San Gabriel Valley. He also serves as a member of the city's Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Team. NIS takes a problem-solving approach by empowering residents to handle their own specific problems with the assistance of city departments. By the time Officer Acosta joined the San Gabriel Police Department in March 1995, the city's Neighborhood Watch program had become nearly extinct. The program had only two groups – both inactive – with a combined membership of just 70. However, Crime Prevention Officer Alex Acosta used personal campaigning, extensive door-to-door canvassing and targeted recruitment mailings, to increase the number of active Neighborhood Watch groups to 96 and membership to more than 3, 200 members! By year-end 2012, Officer Acosta expects the program to have a record 100 groups actively participating in Neighborhood Watch. He is also responsible for publishing crime bulletins and suspect photo line-ups for the Department, specifically the Detective Bureau. In 2011, he published over 100 bulletins and photo line-ups that were used during actual in-field investigations and other critical activities such as missing children and adults, suspect identification by victims, and bulletins to surrounding police agencies. He played a vital role in drafting the City's Building Security Ordinance – the first such active ordinance in any San Gabriel Valley municipality. The ordinance, which became law on July 1, 1999, and mandates security standards for all new residential and commercial construction. It has been exceptionally effective because its stringent recommendations extend far beyond the minimum building security standards. The ordinance uses Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to address lighting, landscaping, doors, locks, windows and other security issues. In December 1997, Officer Acosta brought the Department into the Information Age with the launch of its website, www.sgpd.com, which he personally developed and maintains. Designed to support the Department's community policing and criminal investigation efforts, the site features a "Most Wanted" suspect page and is updated monthly with a variety of local crime statistics and crime prevention information. It also includes a "Meet Your Officer" page as well as interactive kids' activities and links to law enforcement and missing/abused children agencies. The website is currently being upgraded using the "Flash" technology to create a totally interactive site. It will also be displaying interactive maps so visitors may view where crimes have occurred in the City of San Gabriel.