NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Benefits & Forming a Neighborhood Watch Group

Presentation By:
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office

INTRODUCTIONS

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AGENDA

- History of Neighborhood Watch
- How to start a NHW program
- Security and safety topics
- Neighborhood involvement
- Neighborhood Specific Issues; Q & A's

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HISTORY

- Started in Los Angeles in 1970's
  - Citizens realized that the police can't be everywhere
  - They became the extra eyes and ears for the beat officers

- Started locally in early 1980's
  - Saratoga beat deputies conduct presentations

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

- A community working together & looking out for each other
- A supplement to police presence
- A community that is aware, observes and reports suspicious activity
  - Requires **no physical involvement** by you.
  - Observe and report only.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GOALS

- Reduce the likelihood of property crimes
- Bring citizens & law enforcement into a cooperative partnership
- Promote a spirit of community within a neighborhood

HOW TO START

- The Neighborhood Watch program is created, run, and maintained by you and your neighbors
- Contact the Sheriff's Office before contacting the City to obtain signs and request the signs be placed in your neighborhood
- The "How to Start" handbook has many meeting and event ideas to get your group started and to stay active

NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

- Go to National Neighborhood Watch Institute website www.nnmi.org or call (888) 669-4872

- Order a "How to Start (and Maintain a Healthy) Neighborhood Watch Program" handbook.
  - The handbook will walk you step-by-step through the creation of a Neighborhood Watch Group

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR?

- Suspicious vehicles or persons, not known to the neighborhood
  - Don't Assume they belong, call us and call your neighbors.
- Undocumented door to door solicitors
  - Profit organizations require a city permit
  - Non-Profit organizations do not
- Unknown persons entering backyards or side gates

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR?

- Front doors, side gates, garage doors , car doors or trunks standing open.
- Anything else that makes you feel uneasy or unsure. Call us & call your neighbors.

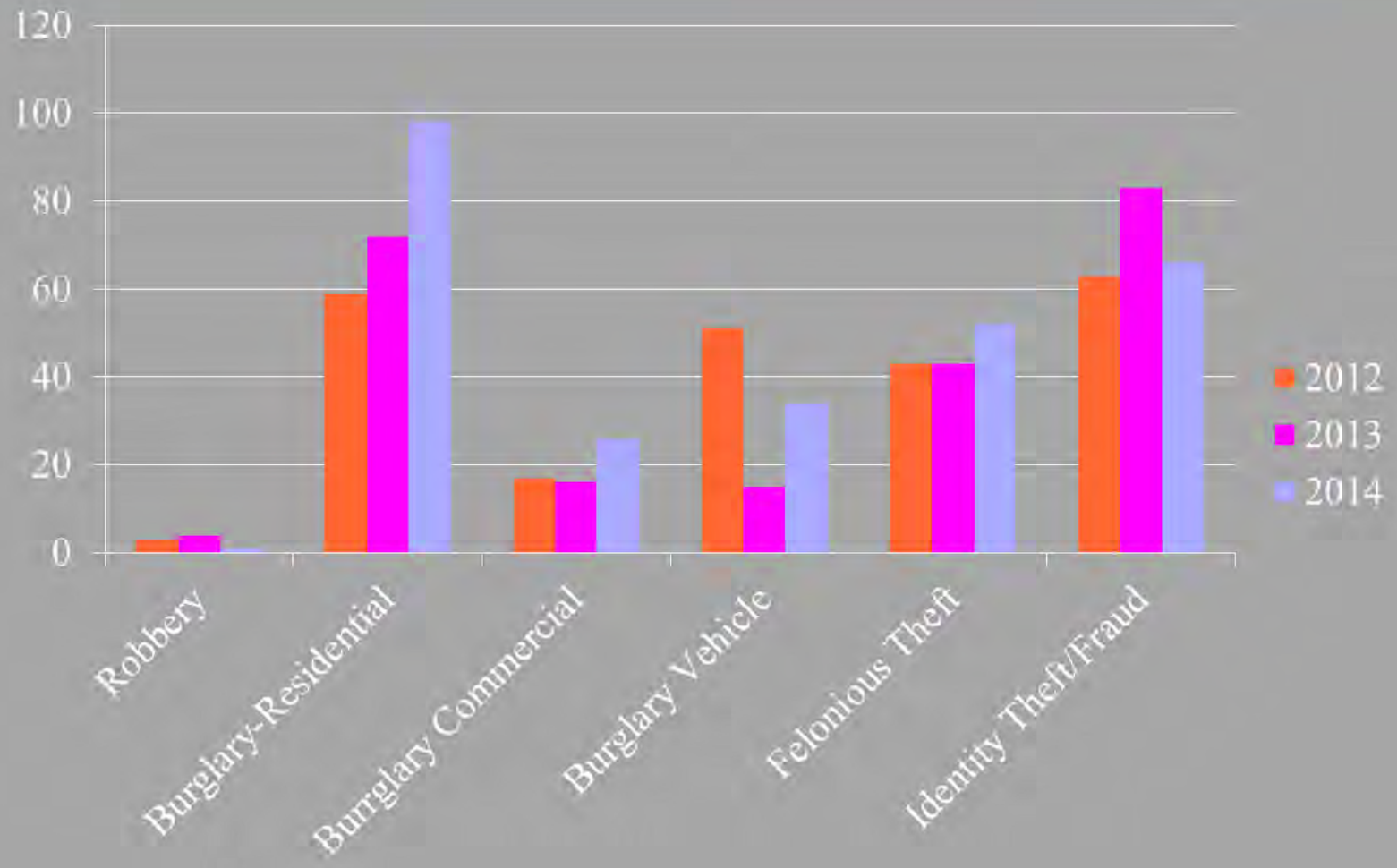
WHO SHOULD YOU CALL?

- Call the police and call your neighbors
- 9-1-1
  - If in doubt, always call 911. The dispatcher can identify location of call.
- Cellular phones
  - 911 may go to CHP in Vallejo; expect a transfer delay. Program (408) 299-3233 into your cell phones for Santa Clara County Communications.

NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

- Be an aware neighbor
  - An aware neighbor knows what goes on in the neighborhood
  - Communicate with your neighbors, if not in person, then by phone, email or fax
  - Get to know your child's friends. Know names addresses & phone numbers
- Call 9-1-1
  - Better to be safe than sorry

CITYWIDE CRIME STATISTICS



CONCLUSION

- Audience questions, comments, or concerns