

## Bahia Bay Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Program

It is the **Homeowner's Responsibility to keep their home and property safe from intruders or criminal activity.** We have assigned volunteer Block Captains to your street to work with us to improve the safety of our area. The Neighborhood Watch Committee is designated by the Bahia Bay Board to keep this neighborhood free from crime. Please report criminal activity to the Aransas Sheriff's office (we are in Aransas county and not entitled to service from the Rockport Police) as well as to your block captain and the Neighborhood Watch Chair (see the officer list for the current chair). The chair will discuss with you if you want your name identified when we alert the neighborhood by email of this incident. Your name is not put on the alert if you ask to remain anonymous.

### Notes from Chair:

As part of our Watch program, we have at least one volunteer Block Captain assigned to every street to help us keep our area safe. Block Captains are listed on the Bahia Bay website ([bbpoa.com](http://bbpoa.com)) under the "Officers & Block Captains" tab. Please get to know them and share safety concerns. They keep a watchful eye on their assigned street area.

I rely on you and our Block Captains to report suspicious activity. This allows us to maintain a database of incidents so we can work as a community to address the immediate problem and take necessary action to mitigate future problems of a similar nature. **You should contact the sheriff's office directly if you had a criminal incident on your property as you are the primary contact with the sheriff's office when your property is affected.** Give as much detail as possible. Let the Neighborhood Watch Chair know as soon as possible the same information.

**Call 911 if it is an emergency!**

Otherwise: Call the Sheriff's Office at **361-729-2222** to request an officer to come out to investigate and take a report. Get a copy of the case number if you want to pursue this with a detective to follow-up on the case. You may want to see the case through legal proceedings such as obtaining remediation from the perpetrators, if appropriate. If you are just concerned about somebody looking suspicious, (such as solicitation) call and ask the sheriff's personnel to come and check the person out. Give them a description of the person and where last seen.

### Other suggestions when going out of town:

1. When you are going to be out of town, you may want to contact the Sheriff to ask for what is called a **"close patrol"**, which means they will drive by your home more frequently to observe, both day and night. Let your block captain know you are going to be gone if possible.
2. Get to know your neighbors. Let a trusted one know if you leave town in- case we need to contact you about a fire or emergency near your home. Indicate if you have left a pet in the house.
3. Arrange for someone to pick up your newspapers and mail rather than advertising your absence.
4. Be careful what messages you leave on your phone or website/FB about being absent from your home.
5. Keep your garage door down, even in the daytime. Keep your front light on **at night per our covenants.**
6. Never leave your car/boat/deck/insecure. Lock up.
7. Keep a light on inside your home with a radio playing when absent.
8. If you are having contractors come while you are gone, let your block captain know if possible. Let the contractors know **to keep their tools** locked up.
9. Consider installing a security system.
10. Review <https://publicsite.dps.texas.gov/SexOffenderRegistry> to find out where sex offenders live.
11. You can get **a vehicle sticker** that identifies you are from Bahia Bay. It will help us see when outsiders are here.
12. Keep the Neighborhood Watch Chair informed if you change your email or phone contact. It is critical we can get in touch with you to share monthly Neighborhood Watch/emergency issues.
13. If you had an incident, check with the Security Chair to see if any outside cameras may assist you with observations.