
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES REPORTING

Nextdoor.com and Facebook, including the Manette Neighborhood Coalition site, are places to share information within your neighborhood. However, social media should not be used in place of Neighborhood Watch, or a call to the police. The first rule of thumb is:

If you see something, say something. That means reporting it to the Police Department, **not** social media.

If you are a victim of a crime, report that to the Police Department. Share information about crimes only with law enforcement, not on social media. Take the following steps:

- a) Take a photograph or write the information down immediately. If you observed a crime in progress; saw a theft occur or saw something suspicious call the Bremerton Police department immediately (911).
- b) Describe the person: gender, height, weight, hair color, clothing type and color of shirt, jacket, pants, and shoes. Place last seen, direction of travel. Weapons?
- c) Crimes should be reported to the BPD, and any photo/digital surveillance should be provided for patrol deputies/detectives.

Further, the MNC site will **not allow** pictures or descriptions of “sketchy” or otherwise subjectively described people. If you witness someone trying car doors, or breaking into a building (home or business) or car - call the police!

Note: It is perfectly fine to link to and share photos from the Bremerton Police Departments web site or FB page if they are seeking community help to locate someone.

Reasons that pictures will be taken down include:

Do not post photographs of suspected persons or vehicles! Such posting may be harmful in any or all the following ways:

- a) That person may not have committed a crime.
- b) That person may have been wrongfully accused.
- c) That person now may be targeted by the community and possibly harmed.
- d) Liability of posting a photograph of a person and labeling them a thief can be a civil issue for the person who posted it and a detrimental issue to the safety of the person in the photograph.
- e) That person may sue for defamation of character and wrongful assault if injured.
- f) Surveillance video of a crime can be vital in making an arrest and prosecuting that crime.
- g) Sharing information with possible witness and neighbors muddies the water.
- h) Social media video of a person that is suspicious seen in the area in relationship to a crime:
 - i) Discredits their future statement.
 - ii) Prejudices the accused.
 - iii) May cause the District Attorney to not file a case with a now prejudiced witness.
 - iv) Neighbors may seek out that person and find out more.
 - v) Neighbors may attempt to contact the subject and jeopardize prosecution.
 - vi) Neighbors leak information on social media that helps the suspect.
 - vii) The witness may say that he saw the clip on social media, found more about him on Facebook and looked him up.
 - viii) A witness not yet interviewed by LE may have previously seen the social media video of the

- suspect or persons of interest and without the opportunity to look at 6 similar photos, may ID the person that they saw on the social media without even knowing of their own possible prejudice.
- ix) A tainted case is weak and may not even be submitted for prosecution.

Reasons not to use Social Media in place of Neighborhood Watch include::

- a) Participants of Neighborhood Watch are trained to be aware and recognize and report suspicious activity. They have received crime prevention training to keep the property and persons safer than those who have not been to neighborhood meetings.
- b) Trained members of neighborhood watch know who to call and how to report suspicious activity and crime on their street.
- c) Neighbors who are part of neighborhood watch have rosters and maps, addresses, emails and phone numbers and know who their neighbors are. They are persons that live on the same block or the next street over and are locally part of their neighborhood. We encourage everyone to start a neighborhood watch.
- d) The Bremerton Police Department's function on social media is very limited, as they only have access to posting; not to viewing the specific threats of each identified neighborhood.
- e) Information blogged between members is not known to law enforcement or outsiders.