



SOLVING NEIGHBOURHOOD PROBLEMS

Series: Solving Neighbourhood Problems

Part 12 of 12: Police and Neighbourhood Matters

Unit owners sometimes forget that just because they live in a high-rise or town house complex with a body owners corporation, the police are still there to protect them just as if they lived in a freestanding house.

If you report a disturbance or suspected crime, you can call the local police, and are probably better off doing this than calling the owners corporation manager. The police will want to know your name, address and phone number. This will remain confidential and not revealed to your neighbour unless charges are laid and you are needed as a witness.

If you see or suspect a crime –

- Call 000 and stay calm, report what you have seen or heard and give your address.
- If you suspect your home has been entered, do not go in, the intruders may still be inside – call the police from your neighbour's place or using your mobile.
- If you see a suspicious vehicle in your neighbor's car space, take down the registration number, colour and make of vehicle and call your neighbour.
- If you hear a burglar alarm, call your neighbour to see if it is a false alarm and if you get no answer call the police
- If a stranger comes to your door claiming to represent a company or service, ask for ID or call the organization they claim to represent
- If you are in danger and need help, yell 'fire' rather than 'help'– police say people respond more willingly to 'fire'

Owners corporation managers should allow police access to records or information if investigating a crime. Police will need a warrant to enter a lot.

In any dealings with the police, get the name and number of the officer you speak with, and ask for a copy of any statement you make.

Next Week: A new series begins