



Community Safety

**COMMUNITY
SAFETY**

Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner
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When did the Crime Prevention program become Community Safety?

Civic Life announced the name change through the annual National Night Out events on August 6, 2019. This new name describes a model that embraces an inclusive and collaborative vision of safety where neighbors work with each other, with the City, and with community-based organizations in addressing a broad range of interconnected public safety solutions, such as transportation, emergency preparedness, youth leadership, and more. We believe that our city is safer, stronger and more vibrant when all Portlanders are empowered to work collaboratively and creatively on public safety.

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

Why the change?

Since its inception, the program’s approach to crime prevention has been based on a national model created by the National Sheriff’s Association in 1972: Neighborhood Watch. This model places primary emphasis on police response to resolve all public safety concerns. Civic Life has been evolving away from outdated models that focus solely on crime. We know community safety involves much more than crime and many issues do not require police response.

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Changing the name to Community Safety better reflects a broader approach to public safety that enables us to engage with partners in addition to Police. For example, we are pursuing partnerships with the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management on block level resiliency and emergency response; promoting safe routes to school and other traffic-related topics with the Portland Bureau of Transportation; and creating welcoming communities that stand united against hate and violence with the Portland United Against Hate coalition.



Which parts of the program have been retained?

1. We still coordinate and support annual National Night Out events to bring Portlanders together for celebrating and promoting community cohesion and for uniting as a city towards the common good.
2. The new program continues to provide Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments to help manage, activate and create safe spaces.
3. We still deliver public safety training and awareness, in our commitment to help prevent crime, build resiliency, and support vibrant communities.



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What happened to Neighborhood Watch?

The Neighborhood Watch program is transforming to Neighbors Together, which still connects neighbors but with a new emphasis on community building. The program provides training to neighbors around public safety such as active transportation, emergency preparedness, personal safety, community advocacy, and more. To promote a culture of collaboration and community building, we ask neighbors to meet with one another to identify community safety interests. Once these topics have been agreed upon, our Community Safety Coordinators coordinate a meeting with the group to provide training. Groups can use the trainings to learn how to organize activities like neighborhood clean-ups or regular block parties. Groups can also work on important issues such as emergency preparedness, crime prevention, or youth safety.

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