

Community Focus Statement C: Improve public and equestrian safety within Muscoy.

Action Statement C.2: Coordinate with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to establish a Citizen Patrol.

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Benchmark: Partnership with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's and creation of a Citizen Patrol in Muscoy. Qualified volunteers who meet regularly and provide at least eight volunteer hours per month are recruited.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: none



Members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Citizens on Patrol program.
Photo source: San Bernardino County

A Citizen Patrol is an approach that involves building closer ties between the County Sheriff's Department and residents and businesses in Muscoy, and seeks to be proactive about preventing crime. Volunteers give law enforcement the opportunity to reduce crime and increase law enforcement services. Citizen Patrol volunteers can identify conditions that contribute to crime and other issues specific to Muscoy. (e.g., illegal

parties, etc). They could also serve as a liaison between the community and the County Sheriff's Department, keeping open lines of communication between law enforcement and Muscoy community members.

Citizen Volunteer Units are utilized to assist the Sheriff's Department in meeting law enforcement objectives during the normal course of operation, as well as in times of disasters and emergencies. Citizen Patrol volunteers must meet requirements set by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, attend the Citizen Volunteer Academy training course, maintain first aid and CPR certification, attend monthly business and training meetings, and donate a minimum of eight hours of time per month. Citizen Patrol members do not take law enforcement action, carry weapons, or make arrests, but instead they report suspicious activity to the local police station.

Residents of Muscoy should be encouraged to join the existing program, so there is a larger Citizen Patrol presence. Existing members of the Citizen Patrol should be visible in the community and make people aware that such a group exists to help keep Muscoy safe. The program can also be advertised to existing community organizations or neighborhood groups to encourage new participants who meet the qualifications to go through training. The Citizen Patrol could partner with neighborhood watch groups (Action Statement C.1) and other safety workshops hosted in the community (Action Statement C.3). As the Citizen Patrol group grows, there will be an opportunity to create more specialized volunteer units to cater to a specific need in the community.

Case Study: City of Rancho Cucamonga Citizen Patrol Unit

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Publicize the existing Citizen Patrol group to neighborhood groups, such as homeowners associations, neighborhood watch groups, or faith-based institutions.	Champion	Years 1–3	US Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, <i>The Collaboration Toolkit for Community Organizations Effective Strategies to Partner with Law Enforcement</i> , 2010, revised in 2014 University of California, Berkley, School of Law, <i>What Works in Community Policing?</i> November 2013 San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Citizens on Patrol Program
2. Encourage Muscoy residents who meet the requirements to go through Citizen Patrol training and become active volunteers.	Champion with Citizen Patrol volunteers, community groups	Years 1–3	
3. Increase visibility of the Citizen Patrol group by holding quarterly workshops, having a presence at community events, and maintaining a Facebook page/email newsletter. Publicize the group in languages commonly spoken in the community.	Citizen Patrol volunteers	Years 1–3	
4. Hold annual recruitment efforts to provide information and get more volunteers involved in the Citizen Patrol group.	Citizen Patrol volunteers	Annually	
5. Reach out to the Citizen Patrol volunteers to evaluate the program and identify potential improvements.	Citizen Patrol volunteers	Annually	