

We had a great meeting in our garden community area yesterday with police Corporal Joshua McKoy and Constable Antonio Chan, who traveled to BIB to teach us about general safety and crime awareness, and also explained the benefits of organizing a Neighborhood Watch program.



The Neighborhood Watch program is part of the Community Policing sector, which also includes the Young Cadets program, Do The Right Thing, community volunteering and Ride Along programs, and the G.R.E.A.T. program sponsored by the US State Department to help end gang violence and drug use and sales. We are lucky to have Corp. McKoy in our area, as he travels throughout Central America teaching other police departments about how to implement the Neighborhood Watch programs. He's a great resource for us!

He recommended that we consider forming a Neighborhood Watch organization, for several reasons. It would be part of our ongoing safety and security process. It connects us to additional training and resources in the bigger community. It helps build our own community connections. We also could be eligible for grants programs to help with infrastructure related to safety and communications. For example, he offered to help us get our radio tower tuned in and train all owners on the proper use of radios. Then they can offer a daily 'radio check' where we check in each day with the police, like the

remote resorts do, to ensure we have communications in place in case of an emergency. We also would receive a sign for the entrance indicating that this is a Neighborhood Watch area.



We concluded the meeting with some suggestions about how to reduce our personal risk of being a crime victim, and he and Constable Chan answered some questions from the owners in attendance. Finally, we all enjoyed some cookies and cold water to end the meeting.

We have a few volunteers who are interested in proceeding with the Neighborhood Watch program, and if we have wider support from the community, it would ensure a successful program. There is not an additional cost to participate. Please let us know you thoughts and questions!

