



# WILLOW OAKS

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Willow Oaks Recreational Association • A Covenant Community • 236-1/2 Beauregard Heights • Hampton, VA 23669

## Neighborhood Watch Crime Reporting Guidelines

### When should you call the police?

Calling the police is always a good idea when you want to get involved in crime prevention. But sometimes calling the police or other authorities is more than a good idea – it is a must.

Many people hesitate to call the police out of fear of getting involved, or of being identified, or even of fear of sounding silly or overly-suspicious. But the police need and want your help in preventing crime.

### What happens to me when I call the police?

Naturally, the police need to know as much as possible when they deal with actual or suspected criminal activity. When you call, the police operator will take as much information as is required to be able to send police to deal with the situation. But more information may be needed later, or facts may need to be checked out, so always leave your telephone number with the police. You can still remain anonymous. This means that your number will not be made known to police. Simply tell the person to whom you are reporting that you wish to remain anonymous and your privacy will be respected.

### Some examples of calls that require the police:

- Anything that looks suspicious and out of place for your neighborhood.
- Anyone removing accessories, license plates or gasoline from a vehicle should be reported.
- Unwanted guest or trespassing.
- Anyone peering into parked vehicles may be looking for a vehicle to steal.
- The sound of breaking glass or any other loud explosive noises could mean an accident, house break-in or vandalism.
- Person loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas especially after hours.
- A person hanging around asking suspicious questions about the neighborhood and does not live there.
- Unusual noises such as gunshots, screaming, sounds of combat, abnormally barking dogs-anything suggestive of foul play, danger or illegal activity should be reported.
- Anytime and every time you suspect that something is wrong, suspicious, dangerous, criminal or possible trouble has occurred, is occurring or about to occur.

### Other examples provided by the HPD include:

- A suspicious person going door to door asking for money or food. This is a form of suspicious activity. Some criminals case the area to see what items are inside your home and return.
- A vehicle left on your street for days. The vehicle could be stolen. Call the police to check the status.
- Vehicles parked at unusual hours with one or more occupants. Call the police if it is suspicious for your neighborhood and makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Suspicious individuals hanging on a corner. Call the police if you feel uncomfortable with the activity.
- Individuals hanging around schools after hours. Call to enforce trespassing.

**Numbers to call non-emergency 727-6111**

**Suspected drug activity 727-6830**

**If you report a crime, these details will help the HPD better respond to the issue:**

**WHO? What do they look like – sex, race, height, weight, age, clothing and any distinguishing features like glasses or facial hair.**

**IS THERE A VEHICLE? What color, make, model, body style and license number.**

**WHICH WAY DID THE PERSON OR PEOPLE LEAVE? Did they run? Was there a car? What direction?**

### **Website for information regarding sex offenders**

There is a website available that is helpful in identifying sex offenders that may be residing in the area.

**<http://familywatchdog.us>** It is free and easy to use – after typing in your address, a map will appear. You can zoom in by clicking on the numbers directly above the map. Clicking on a colored square will provide information on the offender and his address. Information is supplied by the Virginia State Sex Offender Registry. For the sake of children, this is an excellent thing to pass along to family, neighbors and friends! It is available in most other states also.