

## **North Star Community Patrol Organizing Documents**

*Adopted by the North Star Community Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.*

### **Statement of Purpose**

The North Star Community Patrol (NSCP) is to be the eyes and ears of the North Star Community Council and its residents. NSCP's responsibility is to report suspicious or criminal activity, help citizens in emergencies, educate the community about public safety, and to assist the Anchorage Police and Fire Departments, other law enforcement agencies, and area neighbors in fostering a safe, drug-free, crime-free, and healthy community.

A patroller's chief purpose is to be a:

- \*vigilant observer
- \*visible mobile crime deterrent
- \*thorough and accurate report writer

As a community, we are welcoming and respectful of all individuals. We celebrate the diversity and unique qualities that each member of our community brings to our collective experience. To ensure these values are respected in our patrol effort, and that our patrol efforts are conducted safely and responsibly, the North Star Community Council has instituted the following rules and policies.

### **I. Patrol Organization**

1. NSCP will be comprised of a Coordinator (or multiple Co-Coordinators) and an unspecified number of Patrollers. NSCP is organized under and subject to the ongoing authority of the North Star Community Council.
2. The Coordinator is responsible for:
  - a. Maintaining an active roster of patrollers, including contact information, vehicle information, proof of insurance, and copies of all required training certificates;
  - b. Serving as the first point of contact for issues that arise in connection with NSCP.
3. NSCP is authorized to appoint the Coordinator or Co-Coordinators, and to formulate its own rules regarding shifts, scheduling, and other day-to-day operational matters.
4. NSCP shall hold regular meetings.

### **II. Patroller Eligibility Requirements**

NSCP patrollers must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Be a resident of the North Star Community Council area, or represent a business located within the area.
2. Be at least 18 years of age.
3. Undergo a background check (NCIC & APSIN) by the Alaska State Troopers or other screening mechanism approved by the NSCP.

All patrollers who will be engaged as a driver in vehicle patrolling must also hold a valid Alaska Driver License and auto insurance.

### **III. Patrol Rules, Powers, and Duties**

1. Patrollers must respect the following priorities at all times while on patrol:

*Priority 1: Patroller safety*

*Priority 2: Following the law*

*Priority 3: Observing and deterring criminal activity*

2. Patrollers must ensure they are highly visible while on patrol. For example, they should use vehicles identified as patrol vehicles with signs, patrol jackets, vests, hats, or other visible means to identify patrollers to the public.
3. Patrols may be either vehicular, on foot, or on bike. No patroller may patrol alone at any time. All patrols must consist of at least two patrollers.
4. Patrollers must carry a working means of two-way communication (two-way radio, cell phone) on every patrol. Patrollers must keep the Coordinator informed of their activities throughout their patrol shift.
5. Patrollers may not report for duty intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or performance-altering medication. Patrollers may not consume any such substances while reporting for or going on patrol.
6. Patrollers may not carry firearms, night sticks, tasers, or other weapons capable of causing serious bodily injury.
7. Patrollers may carry flashlights, pepper spray, and other devices that will aid in patrol duties without creating the potential to inflict serious bodily injury.
8. Patrollers do not possess any special law enforcement authority. They do not have police powers, cannot make an arrest, and must not confront, attempt to apprehend, or arrest a suspected criminal.

9. Patrollers may take any safe, legal action that they would be authorized to do as private citizens.

#### **IV. Patroller Reporting Requirements**

Patroller responsibilities include a duty to report. When reporting an incident or observation, patrollers must use a standard form of reporting that includes:

Date and time

*Information should be as specific as possible.*

Description of type of activity

*For example, vandalism, theft, consumption or sales of drugs or alcohol, other suspicious activity. Descriptions should be as detailed as possible.*

Location

*Specify the street address and indicate where the activity occurred (in the home, front yard, back yard, alley, etc.).*

Physical description of person(s) involved

*List (1) height, (2) weight or build, (3) hair color, (4) eye color, (5) race/ethnicity or other distinguishing physical characteristics, (6) age, and (7) color and style of clothing.*

Mode of transportation, if relevant:

*Indicate whether the person involved was on foot, on bike, in a vehicle. Include a description of any bike or vehicle used (make, model, color, style, license plate number).*

Other reports made

*State (1) whether the information was reported to any other authorities, such as APD or AFD, (2) indicate how and when the report was made (online or by phone), and (3) include the report number if applicable.*

#### **V. How to Become a Patroller**

If you are interested in becoming a member of the North Star Community Patrol, please complete the online application form.

NSCP will use the information on your application form to determine if you meet the eligibility requirements listed above. You will be notified when your application has been reviewed and when the background check has been completed.

If you have questions, or if you are unable to complete the form online and need a paper form, please contact \_\_\_\_\_, the NSCP Coordinator, at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ [phone/e-mail].