



Block Captain Application

Name- Date-

Address-

City- State- Zip-

Phone-

Email-





Neighborhood Watch Member Application

Name- Date-

Address-

City- State- Zip-

Phone-

Email-



Quick reference telephone numbers

Emergency calls (police, fire, ambulance)	911
Edinburg Police Department (non -emergency).....	(956) 289-7700
Edinburg Community Oriented Policing Division	(956) 289-7734
Edinburg Fire Department (non- emergency).....	(956) 383-7691
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office (non- emergency).....	(956) 393-6000
Texas Department of Public Safety	(956) 316-1801
Med- Care EMS	(956) 668-9111
Edinburg Crime Stoppers Tip Line.....	(956) 383-8477 (TIPS)
Edinburg Children's Hospital.....	(956) 388-6000
City of Edinburg.....	(956) 388-8204
Edinburg Animal Control.....	(956) 383-7411
Edinburg Public Works.....	(956) 388-8210
Edinburg CISD Police Dept.....	(956)289-2572
City Help and Information Line.....	311

Hotlines

Poison Control.....	(800) 222-1222
Suicide Prevention.....	(800)784-2433
National Runaway Safe line.....	(800) 786-2929
Texas Runaway Hotline/ Crisis Center.....	(800)989-6884

Edinburg Police Department Community Oriented Policing Division

Lieutenant L.Ozuna	956-289-7782
Sergeant J. Gaytan.....	956-289-7721
Officer J. Lara.....	956-513-2209
Officer R. Torres.....	956-513-2280
Officer R. Anaya.....	956-378-2365
Officer A. Benedict.....	956-330-4907
K9 Domino.....	Roof!

How to start a neighborhood watch program: 5 easy steps

1. Recruit and organize as many neighbors as possible.
2. Contact the Edinburg police department Community Policing Division at 956-289-7700.
3. Discuss your communities concerns and develop a plan of action. Designate a block captain or several block captains for each subdivision.
4. Create a communication plan. How will you address your concerns to your block captain? Facebook, whatsapp, SMS text, email?
5. Schedule and hold your meetings. Edinburg Police dept. encourages our neighborhoods to hold at least 3 meetings annually. Edinburg PD would be present for each meeting. After your 3rd meeting, we will post 'watch signs' around your neighborhood.

Your block captain will have first line communication 24/7 with an officer from the Edinburg Police department. With a successful Neighborhood Watch group, you will notice reduction in crime, improved communications and a stronger, united community. Together, we can make a safer neighborhood for all to enjoy!

Additional resources:

<https://www.nnw.org/start> National Neighborhood Watch

[Neighborhood Watch - National Crime Prevention Council \(ncpc.org\)](http://Neighborhood Watch - National Crime Prevention Council (ncpc.org))



Three annual meetings

1st Meeting: Identify the concerns

At this meeting, neighbors will have a chance to meet and greet one another. Neighbors can establish block captains, watch coordinators and watchers. Establish your source of communication and provide additional resources specific to your community. Neighbors will be able to address all concerns and ongoing issues with the block captain and the police officer assigned to the community. Establish rules and guidelines for watchers and schedule all three meetings. **TAKE ACTION!**

2nd Meeting: Was there a resolution?

This meeting should be scheduled 3 months after the first, in order to have an accurate depiction of the neighborhood watch efforts reducing crime in the area. Provide updates, statistics and reports to community members and brainstorm conflict resolutions. Review rules and guidelines with all watchers and address any new concerns.

3rd Meeting: POT LUCK TIME!

At this meeting, the Edinburg Police Dept. will present your neighborhood with its new Neighborhood Watch signs. Enjoy your successes of kicking off your neighborhood watch group and share your personal testimonies on how you helped deter crime. Recruit new members and schedule your next meeting.

Officers of the Edinburg Police department will be present at all meetings. They will be able to address your concerns with knowledge and expertise of Texas Penal Code, Traffic Code and City Code of Ordinances.



What are some types of suspicious activity and how can you report it?

The way a person looks does not make them suspicious. Actions and behavior does.

Person walking and peering into cars and windows- The possible crime of these actions could be theft of vehicle and/or burglary of habitation. Call it in.

An unfamiliar vehicle driving slowly through the area; passing multiple times; parked with driver waiting for long periods of time - The possible crime of these actions could be a criminal scouting or canvassing the area. Criminals look for unlocked vehicles, homes without cameras, homes without lights and activity. Criminals may park and scout a resident's activity to have an idea of when the residents may not be home.

Solicitors who do not provide identification or proof of employment- In some cases, criminals will pose as a salesperson of some type in order to gain access into your home. If they cannot or refuse to provide some type of identification representing said company, this is a red flag. It is best you never allow a solicitor in your home and never provide personal information.

Suspicious noises- A dog barking can be a nuisance, but what if that dog is barking for long periods of time? Does the dog sound like it may be barking at something or someone? This is a good clue that something or someone may be lurking outside.

Sounds of gunshots- Even if you are unsure, it's always best practice to call the police to check on it. Report when you heard it, how many shots, and from what direction you heard it from. Don't always assume you heard fireworks.

Glass brake- Very common method of theft of vehicles, auto thefts and burglary of habitations starts with a glass break. This noise is suspicious, no matter what the circumstances are. Call 911.

Noises of fighting/screaming- More than likely when you hear this, there is a real emergency. Call 911 immediately. You may be the only source for help!

Neighbor's residence appears unsecure- If you notice a garage, window, door or even a car door open its best to alert your neighbor. Check on your neighbor or call the police.

Unknown person carrying 'out of place' items under strange circumstances- An example of this would be an unknown male pushing a lawn mower down the street at night time hours. An unknown person carrying a TV or other household items to their vehicle or walking on the street. Its best practice to call the police to ID the person and check the status. If they have a valid explanation, they can tell the police.

Unknown person lurking in yards- If you cannot determine that person should be there (i.e maintenance, lawn service or technician) you should report suspicious activity. It is also highly unlikely any type of service would be working on the property in the night time hours. It's best you alert the home owners and/or the police.



Safety tips for crime prevention in your neighborhood

Ample lighting- Lighting on your home is an effective deterrent to crimes like auto thefts and burglary of habitation. **TIP-** install bright LED lights on your home, motion sensor lights, leave the lights on when away from your residence. If lighting on your street is scarce to none, contact your local city officials to request street lamps.

Lock it up- Always secure your vehicle and home. Close all windows and lock all doors. A very common method for vehicle burglaries are to only hit unlocked cars. It only takes seconds for someone to steal from you if the car is easily accessible.

Be cautious while you travel- Be mindful of who you share your personal travel information to, especially if posting the details to social media. By doing this, you are advertising when your house will be vacant, creating a window of opportunity for a criminal. You could very well come home to an empty and vandalized house. Also, ask a friend or neighbor to take care of your home while away. Don't allow any signs of vacancy to your home (i.e mail or packages stacking up, lights never turned on, trashcan not brought to the curb, grass allowed to be overgrown)

Close all windows and blinds at night- Leaving your blinds open at night provides a clear picture of what valuables you have inside of your home. It's less enticing to burglarize a property if it's unknown what's inside.

Install security cameras- Cameras are an essential tool when combating crime like property damage, burglaries, and trespassing. Cameras allow the homeowner reassurance and peace of mind. It's not likely your home will be a target if you have surveillance. But if it is, you'll be prepared to report and prosecute with evidence at hand.

If you see something, say something- Be diligent and alert. By doing this, it benefits the entire neighborhood. You've got nothing to lose by calling the Edinburg police and asking for extra patrol or to check on suspicious activity.

Post signs- "No Trespassing," "Caution- Dog," "No Soliciting," "Home Secured by Alarm Company."

City of Edinburg: Code of Ordinances

Please visit the City of Edinburg website and search “Code of Ordinances”

• **Sec. 95.22 - Disturbing the peace generally.**

It shall be unlawful to produce any noise in or near any public street, or near any private dwelling or place of business, which is reasonably calculated to disturb the peace or good order of the neighborhood, or of persons owning, using or occupying property adjacent to such public streets or in the vicinity thereof. Such disturbance of the peace or good order of the neighborhood will occur if the noise produced is between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., if the noise is being produced from a public street, or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., if the noise is being produced from private property, or if such noise is produced at another hour but the decibel level of such noise at a point 200 feet or more from the source of the noise measures 65 decibels or more.

• **Sec. 95.23 - Animals disturbing the peace.**

(A)It shall be unlawful for any person to own or keep, after due notice by any official of the city, including any police officer, any animal which shall produce such noise, such as barking or braying, or otherwise, which is reasonably calculated to disturb the peace and good order of the neighborhood, or of persons owning, using or occupying property in the vicinity thereof.

(B)Such disturbance of the peace and good order of the neighborhood will occur if such noise can be heard within any structure in the neighborhood, and such noise occurs on more than an intermittent basis. "Intermittent basis" means noise which occurs more than two times per day and for a period longer than 30 seconds on each occasion.

(C)In the event of a violation, the owner or keeper of such animal shall be given notice, orally or in writing by any city official, including a police officer, of the fact that such violation has occurred. If such noise reoccurs within five days after such notice, then the owner or keeper of such animal shall be in violation of the terms of this code.

Sec. 95.24 - Loud noise.

(A)*Purpose.* The purpose of this section is to provide more definite examples and parameters that constitute loud noises that disturb the peace. This Section does not diminish any other sections within [95.20](#) et. seq.

(B)*Definitions.* *Daytime/evening* shall mean the hours between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. and midnight Friday and Saturday.

Decibel shall mean the weighted sound pressure level obtained by the use of a sound level meter and frequency weighting network such as A, B or C as specified in American National Standards Institute specifications for sound level meters (ANSI S1.4-1971).

Impulsive sound means sound of short duration, usually less than one second, with an abrupt onset and rapid decay. Examples of sources of impulsive sound include explosions, drop forge

impacts, and the discharge of firearms. All loud noises within this Section may include impulsive sound.

Loud Noise means any loud, irritating, vexing or disturbing sound originating from a nearby property under separate ownership which causes injury, discomfort, or distress of a person of reasonable nervous sensibilities, or any sound that exceeds the maximum permitted sound levels specified.

Nighttime shall mean the hours between 11:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday and midnight and 9:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

(C)*Applicability.* This Section does not apply to:

- (1)The emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to an emergency;
- (2)An employee of a governmental entity engaged in the employee's official duty;
- (3)Sound produced by a vehicle motor while the vehicle is moving on a public right-of-way, public waterway, airport runway, or railway;
- (4)A person at a stadium during a sports event;
- (5)A person at an authorized parade or street event;
- (6)A person operating a bell for a religious activity;
- (7)A person operating an emergency vehicle; or
- (8)A person operating an audible warning device on a vehicle or train as required by state law.
- (9)This article does not apply to a person issued a permit that authorizes the use of sound equipment.

(D)*Loud Noise Enumeration.* The following acts, regardless of time of day (unless otherwise expressly noted below) and regardless of whether produced by a business or otherwise, are declared to be "loud noise," and are unlawful and in violation of the provisions of this Section when such acts are done or accomplished or carried on in such a manner, or with such volume, intensity, or with continued duration, so as to annoy, to distress, or to disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of a person of reasonable nervous sensibilities, within the vicinity or hearing thereof, or so as to endanger or injure the safety or health of humans or animals, or so as to interfere with the physical well being of humans or animals, or so as to endanger or injure personal or real property:

- (1)The playing or permitting or causing the playing of any radio, television, phonograph, drum, juke box, nickelodeon, musical instrument, sound amplifier or similar device which produces, reproduces, or amplifies sound.
- (2)Any loud or vociferous language or any soliciting for, or description of, any amusement house, moving picture theater, or other like place of amusement, or for the performance therein, in the entrance thereto, the foyer or lobby thereof, or on the sidewalks adjoining the same.

(3)The continued or frequent sounding of any horn or other signal device on any automobile or vehicle, motorcycle, bus or other vehicle, except as a danger signal.

(4)The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine, automobile, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle or boat, except through a muffler or other device which prevents loud or explosive noises therefrom.

(5)The erection, including construction, excavation, demolition, alteration, or repair work, or the permitting or causing the operation of any tools or equipment used in construction, excavation, drilling, demolition, alteration or repair work:

(a)Other than during the daytime; or

(b)At anytime such that the sound level at or across a real property boundary exceeds 80 decibels.

(c)This section shall not apply in cases of urgent necessity in the interest of public safety, or in cases of public convenience, including city sponsored or co-sponsored fiestas, parades, and public events.

(6)The crying, calling, or shouting, in person or by a mechanical device, or the use of any whistle, rattle, bell, gong, clapper, hammer, drum, horn, loudspeaker or phonograph with or without an amplifier, hand organ, or other devices or instruments, musical or otherwise.

(7)The raucous shouting, whistling, yelling, singing, hooting, or crying of peddlers, hawkers, vendors or any other persons.

(E)*Loud Noise from Business Property.* A person may not operate sound equipment at a business that produces sound:

(1)In excess of 65 decibels between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., as measured at the property line of the business; or

(2)is audible at the property line of the business at any decibel amount between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

(F)*Residential Area Restrictions.* This section applies to property zoned as residential under the Unified Development Code.

(1)A person may not use sound equipment that produces sound audible beyond the property line of a residence, at any decibel amount, in a residential area between 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

(2)A person may not use sound equipment at any time of day that is audible beyond the property line of a residence in excess of 75 decibels.

(G)*Vibration.* It shall be unlawful for any person to create, maintain or cause any ground or airborne vibration which is perceptible without instruments at any point on any affected property adjoining the property in which the vibration source is located.

(H)*Defenses.* It is an affirmative defense to a violation of this Section that:(1)

The audible sound or vibration occurred when the vehicle or associated equipment or device was being actively loaded, unloaded, or serviced in a manner that complied with all applicable codes, ordinances, and regulations;

(2)The audible sound or vibration:

(a)Occurred when the use of the vehicle or associated equipment or device occurred for a period of 48 hours or less on or adjacent to the premises of a business licensed by the health authority to prepare, serve, or sell consumable food or beverage items; and

(3)At least 48 hours in advance of the alleged conduct:

(a)The person charged obtained consent to the noise or vibration, as described in this chapter, from at least one adult resident of each affected dwelling unit located on a property within 600 feet of the location where vibration or sound was apparent; and

(b)The consent was provided in writing, on a form approved by the City.

(4)Prior to the Loud Noise, the person charged obtain a permit from the City authorizing such Loud Noise. The City Manager or designee may create policies and procedures to grant permits for Loud Noise.

(1)*Identification of Violator.* The persons responsible for violations of this Section are identified as follows:

(1)At private residences. The owner of the property, any adult resident present at the time of the offense, and any adult guest or adult trespasser with the ability to control the level of noise at the time of the offense when no adult resident is present at the time of the offense.

(2)At business locations. The owner of the property; any business owner, operator, manager, or employee in charge; and all persons in control or in possession of the noise nuisance generating instrument or property at the time of the offense.

(3)At any location with an unattended noise nuisance producing machine, device, instrument, child, animal, or combination of same. The owner of the property and any person who leaves unattended any machine, instrument, device, child, animal, or any combination of same, which thereafter commences producing noise in violation of this Section.

Sec. 130.02 - Discharge of firearm.

(A)It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot any gun, pistol or other firearm.

(B)Duly authorized members of the police force of the city and all county, state and federal peace officers, legally authorized to carry firearms, while in the lawful discharge of their duties, are hereby expressly exempt from the terms and provisions of this section.

Sec. 91.10.01 - Impounding abandoned or unrestrained animals creating animal nuisance.

The animal control officer or peace officer shall have the power to impound abandoned or unrestrained animals which create an animal nuisance for the purpose of abating the nuisance as follows:

(A) On public property, in all cases; and

(B) On private property, if: (1) The consent of the resident or property owner is obtained; (2)

The animal control officer or peace officer reasonably believes there is immediate and imminent danger or peril to the public if the animal in question is not impounded; or

(3) Authorized by appropriate courts of law.

• **Sec. 91.10.11 - Animal nuisances.**

(A) The owner or keeper of any animal in the city is responsible for the behavior and conduct of that animal at all times including the creation of a public nuisance. Violations of the following acts or omissions are public nuisances:

(1) The owner or keeper shall keep the animal (except cats) restrained at all times and insure that the animal (except cats) does not roam or run at large and at will;

(2) The owner or keeper shall not keep any dog which barks or whines in such a manner, with such intensity, or with such continued duration, or keep any other animal, fowl, or bird, which makes frequent or long, continued noise, so as to annoy, distress or disturb the quiet comfort or repose of persons of normal nervous sensibilities within the vicinity of hearing thereof;

(3) The owner or keeper shall prevent his animal from biting or injuring without provocation, any animal or person;

(4) The owner or keeper shall prevent his animal from damaging or destroying public property or property other than its owner's private property;

(5) The owner or keeper shall not keep more than the number of animals allowed under this chapter;

(6) An owner or keeper creates an animal nuisance by the keeping, frequent feeding or harboring of any poisonous or inherently dangerous or prohibited animal.

(B) Division (A)(1) of this section is not applicable in the confines of city designated parks which have been designated as "animal park(s)".

• **Sec. 91.10.12 - Dogs not to be permitted at large.**

(A) *Public property.* It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog to permit or allow such dog to run or be at large upon any public highway, street, alley, court, square, park, sidewalk or any other public grounds or public property within the city.

(B) *Other property.* It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog to permit or allow such dog to run or be at large upon any unfenced lot, tract or parcel of land within the city.

(C) *Confining of female dogs in heat.* Every female dog in heat shall be kept confined in a building or secure enclosure, or in a veterinary hospital or boarding kennel, in such a manner that another dog cannot come in contact with it, except for controlled breeding purposes.

- **Sec. 90.02 - Junked vehicles declared a public nuisance.**

Junked vehicles which are located in any place where they are visible from a public place or public right-of-way are detrimental to the safety and welfare of the general public, tending to reduce the value of private property, to invite vandalism, to create fire hazards, to constitute an attractive nuisance creating a hazard to the health and safety of minors, and are detrimental to the economic welfare of the state by producing urban blight which is adverse to the maintenance and continuing development of the municipalities in the state, and such **vehicles** are therefore declared to be a public nuisance.

- **Sec. 90.03 - Unlawful to create or maintain nuisance.**

It shall be unlawful for any individual, company or corporation to leave or permit to remain upon public or private property (except as hereinafter provided) within the city any **junked vehicle** or parts or portions thereof.

Sec. 93.04 - Fireworks.

(A) Discharge prohibited. No person shall cast, throw or fire any squib, rocket, cracker, torpedo, grenade, gun, revolver, pistol, cap or cartridge, or other combustible **fireworks** of any kind in the city.

(B) Sale, exhibiting or possessing. The exhibition, possession, sale or offering for sale of any squib, rocket, cracker, torpedo, grenade or any combustible firecracker or **firework** is a nuisance and is prohibited within the city and within an area immediately adjacent and contiguous to the city limits and extending for a distance of 5,000 feet as they now exist or as may be adjusted by annexations; provided, however, any **fireworks** stand that is in existence at the time of a new annexation and that is located within such 5,000 feet, will be allowed to remain in operation for two seasons of operations from the effective date of such new annexation. One season of operations is from December 20 through the end of January 1 (13 days) and the other is from June 24 through the end of July 4 (11 days). This section shall not apply to the sale of any such articles by wholesalers to each other, or to the sale of any such articles at wholesale to merchants conducting business entirely without the city, or to the sale by wholesalers for private or public demonstrations as provided in division. (C) Exceptions; permit for display. Nothing in divisions (A) and (B) shall be construed to apply to the sale, storage or use of railroad track torpedoes, or other signaling devices used by railroads, nor to the sale, storage or use of flashlight composition by photographers or dealers in photographic supplies, or prevent any public or private demonstration or display of **fireworks** of any kind if conducted under proper police supervision after application made and permit issued by the Chief of the Fire Department for such demonstration. The permit shall not be granted unless such demonstration or display shall be of such a character, and so located, discharged or fired as in the opinion of the Chief of the Fire Department after proper inspection shall not be hazardous to property or endanger any person.

