



## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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### **NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION CONFERS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE UPON AZALEA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

SALT LAKE CITY—Today the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) proudly presents Donna Brustad and the Azalea Park Apartments Neighborhood Watch with the 2007 Neighborhood Watch Award of Excellence. NSA has partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice to recognize law enforcement agencies with strong and robust Neighborhood Watch programs.

Durham, NC is a diverse city with similar problems facing many cities, but one Neighborhood Watch is working to make their community safer. Several years ago Azalea Park Apartments had serious fire damage due to arson. While the apartments were physically rebuilt, apartment management and the Durham Police Department decided something must be done to improve community spirit. The Azalea Park Neighborhood Watch was started in 2005 and with support of law enforcement, apartment manager Donna Brustad became the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. The Azalea Park Neighborhood Watch is representative of the diverse population living in the apartment complex. The support of the apartment complex management team has made this superior program possible. The management holds monthly safety meetings on a variety of topics and has made physical improvements to the apartment complex in order to meet crime prevention standards. The numbers prove this Neighborhood Watch program has made a difference to the safety of residents- the number of calls for service has dropped 53% in one year.



The Azalea Park Neighborhood Watch is a national model because of the residents' and management's commitment to crime prevention. The partnership between the apartment manager, Donna Brustad, the owner, Charles Douthirt, the Durham Police Department, and the community members has made a difference in the community and the National Sheriffs' Association congratulates the group on its success and wishes continued success in the future.

The Neighborhood Watch Awards of Excellence recognizes a local group doing extraordinary things to promote Neighborhood Watch in their community. The National Sheriffs' Association has been the leader in Neighborhood Watch for more than 35 years. Beginning with Boris the Burglar campaign in 1972, NSA sought to raise awareness of residential burglary and empower homeowners with the ability to help protect their own neighborhoods from criminals. Serving as the eyes and ears of law enforcement, neighborhood watch successfully reduced crime in areas with active watch groups. It also strengthened the bond between law enforcement and the community. Today Neighborhood Watch is still a symbol of protecting neighborhoods, but it has evolved to meet homeland security needs. Through the successful USAonWatch initiative, NSA has taken Neighborhood Watch to the next level.

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The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is the voice of elected law enforcement. NSA is a non-profit association of more than 22,000 members dedicated to serving the criminal justice field and we have proudly represented the 3,088 elected sheriffs of this Nation for more than sixty years.

Through the years, NSA has been involved in numerous programs to empower sheriffs, deputies, and others in law enforcement to perform their duties in the best possible manner. Our goal is to help sheriffs serve their constituents and jurisdictions better. NSA provides management training for sheriffs and their command personnel at the National Sheriffs' Institute and through other innovative programs, workshops and seminars. The National Sheriffs' Association headquarters is located in Alexandria, Virginia.

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