

Neighborhood Speed Watch Program

Guide to Raising Awareness of Neighborhood Speed Limits



City of Columbia Public Works Department
701 East Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201
573-874-7250

Neighborhood Speed Watch Program

City of Columbia Public Works Department

Speeding drivers on residential streets can be a common concern received by the City of Columbia. The City's Neighborhood Speed Watch Program encourages neighborhood residents to become involved in assessing this problem, and is a part of Columbia's new Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

The Neighborhood Speed Watch Program is a public awareness program in which concerned citizens can take an active role in solving the problem of speeders in their own neighborhoods. City residents record speeds and report the speeds back to the City. This creates awareness of the speed limit in the neighborhood.

Often, drivers who speed through neighborhoods are unaware of the effect their actions have on the peace and safety of neighborhood streets. Education of the posted speed limit encourages drivers to slow down. No formal citations or fines are issued.

How the Program Works

- 1) Citizens who wish to take part in this program as part of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program first need to complete a petition letter (found at the end of document) with at least 10 signatures from the neighborhood. Return the completed petition to City of Columbia Public Works Department.
- 2) Citizens agreeing to participate in the program are briefed on the requirements and expectations of them. They are instructed in the use of radar equipment, proper data collection and appropriate behavior while conducting the data collection.
- 3) A radar unit is loaned out to the citizens. This is typically a team effort one person in the group is responsible for operating the radar unit; another person records the required information on a City of Columbia Neighborhood Speed Watch Form.
- 4) Once all data collection is completed, the neighborhood residents return the radar unit and all report forms to:

*City of Columbia Public Works Department
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201*

Neighborhood Speed Watch Rules of Conduct

- ✓ *Two volunteers are required at all times during the speed watch.*
- ✓ *Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older to participate.*
- ✓ *Volunteers under the age of 21 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older.
This allows high school and college students to participate in the program.*
- ✓ *Obey all traffic and pedestrian laws*
- ✓ *Be courteous and exercise reasonable care*
- ✓ *Neighbors, pedestrians, and motorists may stop to ask what you are doing. If they have objections to the program they may call the City of Columbia Public Works Department at 874-7250. If a confrontation arises, stop the study immediately and contact the police. Do not argue and remain calm.*
- ✓ *The public may incorrectly assume that you are a representative of the City or a law enforcement officer, or that your actions will result in them receiving a traffic citation. You must make it clear that you are volunteering as a private citizen and participating the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program.*
- ✓ *Do not make gestures or verbal comments toward passing vehicles.*
- ✓ *Do not chase, attempt to stop, or apprehend drivers.*
- ✓ *Do not encourage non-participants to be present.*
- ✓ *Only those persons who have been instructed in the use of the radar equipment may participate in the speed watch. Crowds of people will only draw attention to the speed watch and are counterproductive.*
- ✓ *Accurately collect and record data.*
- ✓ *If you are interested in participating in the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program or have questions, call City of Columbia Public Works Department at 874-7250.*

City of Columbia Radar Unit Loan and Usage Agreement

Name

Address

Phone Number

Understand that:

The radar unit and associated accessories, as listed below, have been loaned to me by the City of Columbia Public Works Department, as provided in the Neighborhood Speed Program for use on

_____, 20_____ through _____, 20_____

Radar Units _____

Clip Board _____

Other _____

The radar unit, which has been loaned to me, is a delicate instrument and must be handled carefully and with caution. I will be responsible for protecting it and returning it in good working order. I will use this device only on the dates and in the manner agreed to with the City of Columbia Public Works Department.

As operator, I am not a City employee or a law enforcement officer and will not communicate or seek to communicate by my actions or speech that I am. I am volunteer and responsible for my own action during the time I am participating in a speed watch.

In addition to myself, only those persons completing this form (separate copy) will be allowed to use the above named equipment or allowed to assist in the collection of speed watch data.

Radar Unit Loan and Usage Agreement/Rules of Conduct

As a participant in the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program, I have read and understand the Rules of Conduct and agree to abide by them. I am a volunteer and not a City employee. I further agree to take full responsibility for my action during the time I am participating in a speed watch. I will not use the radar unit in any other neighborhoods or streets than listed below. I have been informed in the use of the radar equipment and agree to abide by these rules and follow these instructions.

The radar unit will be returned on or before: _____

To the City of Columbia Public Works Department

I will be conducting a speed watch in the neighborhood of : _____

or on the streets of: _____

Signed: _____

Date

Below For Staff Use Only

The above named person received training in the use of the radar unit and data collection, and was instructed on the programs Rules of Conduct.

Signed: _____

Date

Neighborhood Speed Watch Report Form

Observer: _____ Date: _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ Speed Limit: _____

Street Name: _____ Weather: _____

Cross Street: _____ between _____

	Speed	Direction (NB, EB, SB, WB)		Speed	Direction (NB, EB, SB, WB)
1			26		
2			27		
3			28		
4			29		
5			30		
6			31		
7			32		
8			33		
9			34		
10			35		
11			36		
12			37		
13			38		
14			39		
15			40		
16			41		
17			42		
18			43		
19			44		
20			45		
21			46		
22			47		
23			48		
24			49		
25			50		

Page ____ of ____
