

SPEED AWARENESS PROGRAM

Do cars speed in your neighborhood?

Evanston Police Traffic Bureau
1454 Elmwood
Evanston, IL 60201

- ◆ **Speed limits are established for the safety of residents and motorists.**
- ◆ **Speeding on neighborhood streets is one of the most common complaints received by the police department.**
- ◆ **Speeding on the highways is the #1 killer.**

The goal of the Speed Awareness Program is to reduce speeding on neighborhood streets and to increase citizen awareness of the risks of speeding to pedestrians and other vehicles. Volunteers from neighborhoods identify speeding problems, monitor them, and work toward their resolution.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The police department loans neighborhood residents radar units, for one week, free of charge. Any community resident may reserve the radar unit to monitor the speed of traffic traveling in their neighborhood. If a pattern of speeding is established, the police department will enforce traffic laws aggressively at the problem location.

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- ◆ Neighborhood residents log vehicles traveling at excessive speed in their neighborhoods, to decide if there is a problem and, if one exists, when the problem is most severe.
- ◆ The police department's Traffic Bureau reviews the data and determines if the problem merits aggressive enforcement. If aggressive enforcement is justified, a focus in the area at the time of peak violation begins.
- ◆ The police department will send a letter to the owner of the speeding vehicle. The letter will be purely advisory. It will ask operators of these vehicles to drive at or below the posted speed limit when traveling on neighborhood streets.

- ◆ Citizen volunteers will be briefed on what is expected of them, how to use radar equipment and how to properly collect data. Neighborhood volunteers schedule data collection for the days and times they believe speeding occurs. They operate the radar unit and record the vehicle information. At the completion of data-collection, they return the radar unit and information to the police department.
- ◆ Citizen participants benefit from the education on speeding laws, radar use, and constraints to the police department's enforcement efforts. Officers are freed to devote maximum time to aggressive enforcement.
- ◆ Speeders become aware that their actions are being monitored. The program aims to *raise the consciousness* of motor vehicle operators in neighborhoods.

It is everyone's responsibility to drive safely, obey all traffic laws and help keep our streets safe.

If you are interested in the Speed Awareness Program, call the Evanston Police Department Traffic Resource Office (866-5064) or the Supervisor of the Traffic Bureau (866-5079).