

# Boynton Beach Police Department Citizen Observation Patrol (C.O.P.)



The basic philosophy of the C.O.P. is that local **volunteer** resident Members of a community need to assist local law enforcement officials in the fight against crime. This concept is demonstrated by the participation of residents who patrol their own neighborhoods, serving as additional "Eyes and Ears" of the police department.

**A partnership between the police department and the citizens within the community serves to strengthen our commitment to make the City of Boynton Beach a better place to live and be proud of.**

## **WHAT DOES A CITIZEN OBSERVER PATROL DO?**

- A Citizen Observer's only job function is to patrol a designated area and **observe** suspicious occurrences, people, vehicles or objects.
- If a situation does arise, a C.O.P. member shall report it by telephone to the police department.
- Report identifiable or potential hazards.
- Patrol designated areas in a diligent and professional manner.
- Be courteous and professional in the performance of duties and assigned tasks.
- A Citizen Observer has **no lawful authority** and **will not engage or detain suspicious persons.**
- When assistance is required, the Citizen Observer Patrol member is assured of immediate responsive support from a police officer.

**The visibility of specially marked vehicles and uniformed personnel** serve as a strong deterrent against unlawful actions of potential criminals.

**Volunteers** willing to serve with the program are a positive indication of enthusiastic interest in the safety and security of the neighborhood.