To: Mayor and City Council  
Meeting: October 12, 2017

From: Jarad Hildenbrand, City Manager

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO RECOGNIZE HEIGHTS WATCH AS THE CITY’S OFFICIAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

This matter was continued from the August City Council meeting.

SUMMARY
This item was requested by Council Member Higgins and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Francis. The request is to recognize Heights Watch as the City’s official Neighborhood Watch group.

BACKGROUND
The City of La Habra Heights contracts with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement services. The Sheriff’s Department provides general law enforcement, traffic enforcement, crime investigation, and special public safety services. Residents interested in helping keep the City of La Habra Heights safe would be encouraged by Heights Watch to become involved in the Neighborhood Watch program. Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime in the community. Heights Watch, in conjunction with the Sheriff’s Department, would teach volunteers techniques to protect themselves, their family and their community from crime.

Neighborhood Watch involves:
- Neighbors getting to know each other and working together.
- Training residents to recognize and report suspicious activity in their neighborhood.
- Implementing crime prevention techniques such as home security and property identification.
- Learning how to prepare yourself and your neighbors for emergencies.

A Neighborhood Watch Block Captain is someone who:
- Encourages neighbors to participate in Neighborhood Watch.
- Organizes neighbors into a block group.
- Works with the City, Heights Watch, and Law Enforcement to educate and inform block group members.
- Act as a liaison between the City, Heights Watch, Law Enforcement, and the block group.
What are Block Group member activities?
- Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings.
- Make your home as burglary resistant as possible.
- Act as the eyes and ears for your neighbors and report any suspicious activity.
- Report license plate numbers and a description of suspicious vehicles.
- Check neighbors’ homes when they are out of town.
- Assist the Block Captain.

**FISCAL IMPACT**
There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**RECOMMENDATION**
It is recommended that the City Council discuss and provide direction to staff.