

STEPS TO BEGIN A SAFE STREETS NOW PROGRAM

1. It takes just one call from a citizen to activate the program.
2. A Safe Streets Now Workshop is scheduled for the neighborhood. A neighborhood team is formed and an action plan is developed.
3. Neighbors document drug dealing or suspicious actions via an activity log.
4. Team sends a letter and activity logs to property owner requesting action.
5. Property owners join the team and work together with neighbors to make the neighborhood clean, safe and healthy...or property owners don't take any action at all.
6. If property owners don't respond, neighbors go to small claims court.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

“People are tired of drug activity and they are ready to stand up for themselves.”

—Chief Ron Ace



**The Concord Police Department
wants to work with you to
improve the quality of life in
our community.**

**For additional information on the
Safe Streets Now Program,
contact the Community Action
and Awareness Office at
(925) 671-3237.**



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SAFE STREETS NOW!

Safe Streets Now, is an Oakland based organization pioneered in 1989. The program was created to help citizens fight back against entrenched drug activity without relying on the criminal justice system to make results stick.

Molly Wetzel, founder and executive director of Safe Streets Now, provides training for law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

The program was developed to treat neighborhood crime as a problem of private property management. The program creates a step-by-step formula for demanding better management from landlords whose properties attract drug activity and other crime.

Here's how the system works:

Neighbors discreetly monitor a property, keeping logs of possible illegal activity. When enough evidence has been gathered, neighbors send a demand letter to the property owners asking them to clean up the property and evict the problem tenants.

WHAT IF THE PROPERTY OWNERS IGNORE THE DEMAND LETTER?

If the property owners fail to comply or fail to resolve the problems, the people go to small claims court and argue that the owners are maintaining a public nuisance by allowing illegal activity to occur on their property.



Under the rules of small claims court, each neighbor on the claim is eligible for up to \$5,000 in damages. The judge has no power to close down a home, but the threat of huge financial penalties often compels the owners to step in and take care of the problems.

Concord Police implemented the Safe Streets Now program in January, 1993. The first case brought to small claims court against the owners of an apartment complex resulted in a successful judgement for the neighbors!

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Concord Police Department's Community Action & Awareness Bureau has developed a community workshop for citizens.

How to remove a "drug house" from your neighborhood

The workshop is designed to provide neighborhood groups with a safe, fast and effective step-by-step approach that will help rid a neighborhood of a drug/gang house and prevent it from coming back.

The workshop covers the following topics:

- The "business" of drugs
- How to organize a neighborhood
- How to safely and legally document a drug related nuisance
- How to go to small claims court, win, and close down the drug house
- How to collect a judgment