



Security Patrol Details

1. What is the Security Patrol?

The Security Patrol is a privately hired service to increase the safety of our neighborhood. The security officer(s) are off-duty Atlanta Police Department (APD) officers and have a specific cell phone available to residents who pay into the Underwood Hills Security Patrol. This number can be used to report suspicious activity or request other assistance. The security officer will drive either an APD cruiser or a marked personal vehicle and will be armed and can make arrests on the spot. They have access to their dispatch radio as if they are on duty, allowing them to respond to emergencies in the area potentially faster than an on duty patrol officer.

2. Why do we want a Patrol? I pay taxes!

True, we all do. The fact remains that crime happens and has been happening more frequently in our neighborhood. Reasons and excuses can be made for why we feel the Atlanta Police Department, acting alone, is not sufficient. Having additional dedicated officers on our streets are a known deterrent to crime. While there is no hard data available, the neighborhoods we have talked to say they feel safer and have had a net reduction in crime compared to the years before a patrol. Many neighborhoods have created yard signs and stickers to promote the patrol to others as well as to serve as a visual deterrent to suspicious persons "cruising" the area.

3. Where will the Patrol cover?

The Patrol will cover all areas of Underwood Hills. We will work to refine the coverage areas based on the participation of the residents.

4. When will the Patrol operate?

As many shifts/hours as we can afford. Ideally during peak crime times, days, nights, weekends, and/or holidays. Hours would be random and variable to prevent suspicious persons from noticing a pattern of coverage. We will start the Patrol with a smaller set of hours as we get initial funding in. We will add more hours when we are financially able to and when warranted.

5. How will the Patrol operate?

The Patrol is coordinated by an off-duty Atlanta Police Officer that has been acting as Patrol coordinator for other neighborhoods for years. He will coordinate the staffing, hours, coverage, and quality of service for the officers working the Patrol. Once staffed, the officers will patrol our streets in APD Cruisers (Zone 2 allows this and is only when a car is available to be borrowed from the precinct) or in their personal vehicles with large, reflective magnets on the

side that read “Atlanta Police” (or what is legally allowed for them to say). They will drive around, being alert, being visible. They will have police radios and check-in with dispatch to let them know that they are on duty in our area. This allows APD dispatch to contact the Patrol directly and vice versa. The officer will have full police duties and powers including ability to arrest and detain, carry weapons and handcuffs, etc.

As a Security Patrol member, you will receive a sign for your yard, have direct access to our Security Patrol officers via phone and email, and when the officer is on duty, you can request out of town services such as doing a perimeter safety walk of your home and pulling in trash cans, mail and newspapers.

6. Who is actually interested in having a Patrol in Underwood Hills?

From a NextDoor survey in November 2015 for Underwood Hills residents: Of 172 total responses, 152 respondents would consider paying something for a Patrol, 149 would definitely or probably pay \$200, 120 would definitely or probably pay \$300

7. Is Underwood Hills unique in its desire for a Patrol?

No, in fact nearly every neighborhood in and around our area has a Patrol. Here are ones we have researched or talked to. Included are cost per household and some additional details.

Other Neighborhoods That Have Security Patrols

- **Peachtree Hills, Garden Hills, Castleberry Hill**
- **Dupont Commons, Adams Crossing**
- **Collier Hills** - \$250
- **Brookwood Hills** - \$300
- **Paces** - \$300, Has their own vehicle
- **Morningside** - \$200
- **Inman Park** - Bronze, Silver, Gold \$200 - \$300 Increasing coverage like on-demand property checks or street to door escort
- **Midtown Ponce** - \$275
- **East Atlanta** - \$215
- **Kirkwood** - \$200 single family, \$100 condo/townhome
- **Grant Park** - \$175, 42 hours per week
- **Mt Paran Northside** - \$250
- **Ansley Park** - \$240, 56 hours per week
- **Virginia Highlands** - \$300 single family, \$240 condo, Bulk pricing for complexes
- **Candler Park/Lake Claire** - \$200 single family, tiered pricing for condos/townhomes based on # of participating members

9. How much will this cost and how do we pay?

The cost to become a member of the security patrol is minimal – only \$250/year per household. Consider that one insurance deductible for a smashed car window is typically \$500 or more to replace a stolen laptop. This is less than 69 cents per day!

If you are part of an apartment, townhome or condo community and are interested in the patrol for multiple residents, please email us to inquire about special pricing.

Our intention is for this to be a residential patrol, but if you are a commercial business owner in the neighborhood and are interested in participating, please reach out so we can discuss.

There are several ways to join the Security Patrol.

- a. Mail a check in the amount of \$250 payable to Underwood Hills Neighborhood Association to P.O. Box 19914, Atlanta, GA 30325 (email us for an address for neighborhood drop off). Please email securitypatrol@underwoodhills.org if you are putting a check in the mail so we can look out for it and include your name, address, and contact phone number in the email.
- b. Send \$250 via PayPal to securitypatrol@underwoodhills.org (send money to Friends & Family from your bank account or PayPal balance to avoid fees).

8. If I pay and my neighbor does not pay, is their house covered by the patrol?

All households would benefit even if they don't contribute, however coverage area and times would be ultimately determined by household who contribute to the fund. We would recommend neighborly word of mouth to increase participation. More participation means we can afford more coverage. Paying contributors will be entitled to additional services like perimeter checks for their homes and street-to-door escort when possible.

9. What about a neighborhood watch?

We would love to start a more formal neighborhood watch. It is something we've tried to get folks interested in for a few years. If you're willing to serve as a Street Captain or to lead the overall effort, please let UHNA know by sending an email to securitypatrol@underwoodhills.org.

10. What else can we do as a neighborhood?

Other ideas for crime deterrence are vigilance (if you see something suspicious, call 911), install security cameras, install good lighting on timers or with motion detectors, and know your neighbors.