

# ORGANIZING IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

Drug dealers and some of the other criminals in your park are dangerous people. **Do not put yourself in danger by confronting criminals directly.** There are many things that you can do without exposing yourself to unnecessary risk.

## 1. REMAIN ANONYMOUS

- ✓ Do not endanger yourself; all 911 calls can be anonymous.
- ✓ When you observe illegal activity, report your observations to the authorities.

## 2. CALL FROM A SECURE PLACE

- ✓ If you observe dangerous activity in the park, don't call while you are in the park and could make yourself a target.
- ✓ Go somewhere safe—like your own home or a nearby store—to make the call.

## 3. DON'T GO IT ALONE

- ✓ If you must enter what you feel is a dangerous situation, remember that there is safety in numbers. Do not go alone. The larger the group, the better. With enough people, you can be intimidating, too.
- ✓ Don't be a giraffe, sticking your neck out. Put together a committee and work with other civic groups in your community like local churches and block associations. If everyone in the community is organizing against crime, you are all safer.

## 4. WORK WITH THE POLICE

- ✓ The **best** way to ensure your safety is to work with the police to get the dangerous criminals out of your park.
- ✓ By building a relationship with your precinct and communicating the problems you are facing in your park, you will more easily persuade the police to send more patrols through your park. (For more information, see enclosed "Working with the Police.")