

RESOLUTION NO. 86

WHEREAS, citizen patrols have been organized in the City of Alexandria on several occasions and have undertaken to patrol certain neighborhoods in private automobiles to repress and report on crimes in progress; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that citizen patrol participants are usually motivated by a sincere desire to augment and assist the Police Department, the potential disadvantages of such citizen patrols are greater than the advantages; and

WHEREAS, the paramount disadvantage of citizen patrols is that their motives are frequently misinterpreted and their operations tend to create tensions in communities in which they patrol, with the result that the disadvantages are out of proportion to any benefits accruing from their activities; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of other activities that can more productively be assigned to citizen volunteers who wish to assist the Police:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

That it wishes to discourage any voluntary organizations of any type, including citizen patrols, that operate outside normal law enforcement channels and that have the potential of disturbing peaceful relationships or of interfering with normal law enforcement efforts to maintain the peace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council supports and encourages citizen activity, in cooperation with the Police Department, to repress crime through the conduct of crime prevention education programs, through observation and reporting of crimes in progress as citizens go about their daily business, and through a variety of actions by citizens to make their homes and automobiles more secure against theft, vandalism, etc.

Adopted January 25, 1972

Mrs. Helen Vickers, City Clerk
and Clerk of Council