

Thank you for stepping forward to improve communication on your block! Every effort helps residents increase security and maintain a sense of community within Bowmanville. We continue to live in one of the lowest crime areas of Chicago and want to keep it that way!

For this program we define blocks as a square block with shared alleys. See the BCO Bowmanville block map for examples. We hope that you can tackle a square block – recruit a neighbor to work with you as co-captain! Block captains Ian Laing (1900 Farragut) and Noelle Braun-Etheridge (2100 Farragut) are available to help new block captains get started.

The BCO suggests the following activities for block captains:

- Go door-to-door to introduce the program to your neighbors and leave packets of information. You can print the program description and contact info sheet from the BCO website. Other useful things to include – the Community Issue form that residents can use to raise issues through CAPS.
- Get residents in your area involved. Make them aware of and secure their support and participation in the Bowmanville Block Club Program.
- Create and maintain a list of residents from your block who want to participate in the program. Maintain an updated logbook of block residents, complete with their names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. The list for your block resides solely with you as block captain – it is not maintained by or shared with the BCO or any other organization. You can use the Block Club Contact info sheet from the BCO website to collect the information as you go door-to-door.
- Develop a system of communication (a phone tree, email, Facebook or other social network, text messaging) to distribute information to neighbors pertaining to issues that develop in the area (criminal activity, infrastructure concerns, social activities, etc.)
- Encourage neighbors to advise you concerning criminal activity. It is the victim's responsibility to contact the police. Also, encourage multiple neighbors to contact the city when issues arise to ensure the issue gets appropriate response. This can be accomplished by using a phone or text tree.
- Share information among your neighbors when it becomes available. Sources of information may include: other neighbors, other block captains, Chicago Police, CAPS meetings, Alderman O'Connor's office, Clearpath and the BCO.
- Schedule periodic meetings for your area in order to exchange information, renew relationships as well as get acquainted with new neighbors. This could be as simple as encouraging your neighbors to attend a BCO event, or scheduling a coffee or ice cream meet-up at a local venue, a park date, a gathering at a neighbor's house or yard, or even a block party. Enroll your neighbors in planning these activities.
- Meet & communicate regularly with the other Block Captains in order to exchange information and maintain relationships. These meetings can be initiated by you, by other block captains, or by the BCO. Monthly CAPS meetings would be a good place to meet up.
- Register on Clearpath as Block Captain/Administrator <https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath>. This will give you access to city resources for your block, such as email alerts to criminal activity, availability of gardening materials for corners or parkways, educational seminars and more.
- Reach out to identify & aid certain populations on your block and in Bowmanville, such as the elderly, those living alone, or those with disabilities.

To become a block captain, or for more information and support call 1-866-837-1006 or email membership@bcochicago.org. You can also contact us via Facebook www.facebook.com/bcochicago or the BCO website www.bcochicago.org.