



# How to connect with my Latino neighbors

Immigrant communities represent numerous countries and diverse cultures, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to building community relations. Here are some things to keep in mind when reaching out to your Latino neighbors...

## **Know**

- Latino culture is communal, and large family gatherings for dinners or celebrations are common.
- Communication is more often done in person, so emails and flyers may not be the best way to reach out. Try knocking on their door and introducing yourself in person
- Latino families are often patriarchal. When reaching out, it may be more appropriate for men to reach out to men and women to reach out to women.
- Be aware that fear about law enforcement is prevalent in the Latino community. It's important to explain your role as a block watch captain, and make clear that neighborhood watch works to protect all residents

## Do

- When going to your neighbor's house to introduce yourself, show up in pairs (for example, with your spouse or another neighbor). If possible, show up with someone of the opposite gender from your own

## Don't

- When going to introduce yourself, avoid asking a lot of questions. Due to past experiences with discrimination, people may feel like they're being interrogated

## Remember

- Building community trust between neighbors takes time and patience. Don't give up!

*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." -  
Margaret Wheatley*

