

***LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
NORTHWEST AREA COMMAND / Crime Prevention***

***CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING GATED COMMUNITIES***

1. Un-manned gated entrances limit some vehicle traffic, but not all. There is no easy way to discourage a follow-ins®, nor is there an easy way to ensure the code is not given out to multiple users who may have reason to enter - such as residential service providers. Pedestrian traffic is not deterred by a gate, as walking in when the gate is opened is very easy.
2. A manned gated entrance allows for more control as to the vehicles entering if the guard makes a visual and verbal connection with each vehicle. Maintaining a log of those entering by name and vehicle description / license plate is recommended. Some communities issue a visitor® or a workman® pass to entering vehicles to be displayed on the dash or to hang from the mirror. However, the cost of a manned gate is usually not possible unless the neighborhood is very large or the economics of the neighborhood allow for the expense.
3. A manned gate that becomes busy and allows for vehicle entrance without stopping is still subject to a follow-ins® as one guard cannot effectively monitor all activity, especially when conversing with a stopped vehicle. Distractions can occur.
4. There are more ways into a neighborhood than just the designed vehicle way. Criminals commonly find walls to hop, pathways to access, or, other weak points with the perimeter to enter. Knowing that criminals want to access their target without being seen, it would follow that a manned gate would simply be an obstacle to overcome.
5. Residents may develop a false sense of security if they trust that the gate will keep out undesirables. Residents typically take fewer safety or home security precautions because they feel a protected® by the gate and this creates vulnerability.
6. Residents will be inclined to pay less attention to those in the neighborhood, as they feel that if someone is inside, then they must have been a approved® or allowed in by a resident or a guard. Residents are less observant and less interested in what goes on if they have this false sense of security.
7. Criminals commit crimes where they feel undetected, unobserved, and unknown. A gate makes no difference in that regard and does not serve as much of a deterrent.
8. Criminals are deterred by effective home security practices, observant neighbors, and, the fear of getting caught. Effective home security has more to do with awareness, participation, and, proper security measures in place for each home. Invest time and effort into a Neighborhood Watch program or regular community safety information exchanges.