

## JUNCTION NINE

### A Resident's Guide

*"Nobody comes to Junction Nine on purpose. Most people just end up here."*

Junction Nine is an older neighborhood in Seattle, caught between prosperous corporate districts and neighborhoods that have long since fallen apart. It's not wealthy, and it isn't particularly dangerous, but life here isn't easy. Most residents are working-class, SINless, or simply trying to stay out of trouble.

The neighborhood takes its name from the old Ninth Transit Junction, an elevated rail station that once connected much of the city. The station has been abandoned for decades, but the name stuck. Today, everyone simply calls the area **Junction Nine**.

People here tend to know their neighbors. Businesses are small and independently owned, and while crime exists—as it does everywhere in Seattle—it usually stays manageable. The corporations largely ignore Junction Nine, which many residents consider a blessing.

For better or worse, Junction Nine is home.



## **Neighborhood Landmarks**

### **Alvarez Apartments**

One of the oldest apartment buildings in Junction Nine, Alvarez Apartments houses a mix of families, retirees, students, and working professionals. While the building has seen better days, it's clean, well-maintained, and considered one of the better places to live in the neighborhood.

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### **Ruiz Market**

The neighborhood convenience store.

Whether you need groceries, soy noodles, batteries, or just want to hear the latest gossip, chances are you'll end up at Ruiz Market sooner or later. If something interesting happened in Junction Nine, somebody probably mentioned it here first.

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### **Lucky Dragon Noodles**

A tiny noodle shop known for inexpensive food and friendly service.

Residents stop in throughout the day, making it one of the neighborhood's unofficial gathering places. It's a good place to catch up with friends or simply watch the neighborhood pass by.

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### **Northline Plaza**

The small commercial center of Junction Nine.

Most everyday errands happen here. The plaza includes a neighborhood clinic, locksmith, coffee stand, and several other small businesses serving local residents.

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## **Platform Nine**

The abandoned transit station that gave the neighborhood its name.

Officially condemned decades ago, Platform Nine has become home to many of Junction Nine's homeless and SINless residents. Over the years, a quiet community has formed among the old platforms and maintenance tunnels.

Most residents know Platform Nine exists.

Most also know better than to ask too many questions about who lives there.

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### **Ground Floor Laundromat**

A laundromat that closed years ago and never reopened.

The building has remained vacant ever since. Everyone has heard stories about what happens there after dark, though few agree on which stories are actually true.

## **People Everyone Knows**

### **Mrs. Elena Alvarez**

#### **Apartment Superintendent**

Mrs. Alvarez has managed Alvarez Apartments for years and seems to know nearly everyone who lives in the neighborhood. She's respected for looking after her tenants and helping solve problems before they become bigger ones.

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### **Dante Ruiz**

#### **Owner, Ruiz Market**

Friendly, reliable, and always willing to chat, Dante has become something of the neighborhood's unofficial information broker. If you need to know what's happening around Junction Nine, he's usually heard about it already.

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### **Priya Patel**

#### **Courier**

Priya spends nearly every day riding deliveries throughout Junction Nine and the surrounding districts. She knows the streets better than anyone and always seems to know who's moving in—or moving out.

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### **Victor "Old Vic" Donnelly**

#### **Pawn Broker**

Operating a small pawn counter inside Ruiz Market, Old Vic buys, sells, and repairs just about anything that isn't nailed down. If you're looking for an unusual tool or a used piece of equipment, Vic is worth asking.

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### **Mei Tanaka**

#### **Owner, Lucky Dragon Noodles**

Warm, welcoming, and endlessly patient, Mei has spent years serving the residents of Junction Nine. Her restaurant is one of the few places where everyone feels comfortable pulling up a chair.

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### **Dr. Mina Okafor**

#### **Physician, Mercy Clinic**

The neighborhood doctor.

Dr. Okafor treats anyone who walks through her door, regardless of their income or background. Her clinic has become an important part of the community.

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### **Calvin "Ace" Brooks**

#### **Locksmith**

Ace has been fixing locks and making keys for longer than most people can remember. Whether you've locked yourself out of your apartment or need advice on home security, Ace is the person to see.

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### **Nora Kim**

#### **Owner, Blue Cup Coffee**

Nora serves coffee to much of the neighborhood every morning. She knows many residents by name and has an uncanny knack for noticing when someone's daily routine changes.

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### **Hector Morales**

#### **Property Manager**

Hector owns and manages several aging commercial buildings throughout Junction Nine. He has a reputation for being frugal, but he keeps his properties occupied and generally leaves his tenants alone.

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## **Patch**

### **Neighborhood Fixture**

Most people simply know him as Patch.

A familiar face around Junction Nine, Patch spends much of his time near Platform Nine or walking the neighborhood. While some dismiss him as just another homeless veteran, longtime residents have learned that Patch sees far more than people give him credit for.

### **Living in Junction Nine**

Life in Junction Nine is hard.

Most residents work long hours for wages that barely cover rent. Others survive without a SIN, scraping together enough nuyen through temporary work, day labor, scavenging, or whatever odd jobs they can find. Every month brings another boarded-up storefront, another family forced to move on, or another neighbor who simply disappears without explanation.

The neighborhood exists in the shadow of larger forces. Street gangs fight over territory that isn't worth much, but it's all they have. Small businesses pay protection money just to keep their doors open. Corporations quietly buy aging properties one building at a time, waiting for the day redevelopment becomes profitable. Knight Errant patrols roll through often enough to remind everyone who's in charge, but rarely stay long enough to solve anyone's problems.

Most people have learned that if something needs fixing, protecting, or finding, they'll have to rely on themselves—or someone willing to help for the right price.

Trust is a luxury few can afford. People mind their own business, keep their heads down, and avoid asking questions they don't want answered. Still, there is an unspoken understanding among those who've managed to survive here: when trouble comes from outside the neighborhood, it's better to stand together than face it alone.

Nobody expects to get rich in Junction Nine. Most folks are just hoping to make it through another month with a roof over their heads, food on the table, and one less problem than they had yesterday.

Junction Nine isn't a good place to live.

It's simply better than most of the alternatives.