

**SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE JOINT
POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS & NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY BOARD
COMMITTEE**

April 20, 2017
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Multi-purpose Room, 307 Martinsborough Road, Greenville, NC 27858.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the April 20, 2017 agenda.

Motion: Mr. Lennard Naipaul
Seconded: Mr. Greg Rubel

The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the March 14, 2017 minutes.

Motion: Mr. Greg Rubel
Seconded: Mr. Jermaine McNair

The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS / ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Diane Kulik provided opportunity for each member and staff to introduce themselves.

MISSION OF COMMITTEE AND PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Chairperson Diane Kulik read the purpose of the meeting:

- To serve as a liaison between the community and the police;
- To serve as an advocate for programs, ideas, and methods to improve relations between the community and the police;
- To disseminate information to the community and the City with regard to the state of relations between the community and the Greenville Police Department;
- To assist and promote the community education efforts concerning safety awareness and community and individual awareness.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lennard Naipaul; District 2
Greg Rubel; District 3
Diane Kulik; Chairperson, At-Large

Scott Snyder; District 4
Jermaine McNair; Mayoral

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Holtzman, Chief of Police; Donald K. Phillips, Assistant Attorney; Captain Robert A. Williams, Criminal Investigations Bureau; Sylvia Horne, Administrative Staff Support Specialist; Lt. Carlton Williams, South Zone Commander; Lt. David Anderson, West Zone Commander; Sgt. Dale Mills, Community Outreach; Devinder Culver, Community Project Coordinator;

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Allen Thomas
Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Member Kandie Smith, District 1
Council Member P.J. Connelly, District 5

OTHERS:

Members of Fire & Rescue Department
Citizens

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Diane Kulik introduced herself and thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. Chairperson Diane Kulik then conducted a short business meeting.

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked the citizens to hold all of their questions and comments until each guest speaker had completed their presentation.

Welcome - Mayor Allen Thomas

Mayor Allen Thomas thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He stated that what was so special about this meeting was the citizens' engagement and how important our community engagement is across our city. We all know as members of law enforcement and those working for the city that law enforcement can only be in so many places. But CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and so many other programs; and how they work together to make our community safer. How we know and look after our neighbors time and time again that is played out an important role in keeping all communities safe and viable and when the city is selling "Greenville" that is a very important part as well. With our HOA's and community relations that is established is extremely important and is something we do well in the city of Greenville. It is really a testament to the citizens and what we do in every community. Mayor Allen Thomas stated that we cannot stop working as an organization and as a city until every neighborhood, whether it is a rental neighborhood that has a lot of transitions or neighborhoods that have homeowners throughout the neighborhood. Until everyone knows who their neighbors are and work together to try make their communities safe, clean and a wonderful place. Mayor Allen Thomas stated that we can only do it if we do it together. And as the Mayor of the City of Greenville he was very proud of all the accomplishments thus far.

Recognition - Council Member PJ Connelly, District 5

Council Member PJ Connelly thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He informed the citizens that the meeting was held in his district and he was proud for the large turnout. He gave a special thanks to the Greenville Police Department for working on the crime issue back in the fall in his neighborhood. He talked about what great response time he received from the Chief of Police whether by texting or phone call. He

gave two examples of the great work that the police department and Chief had exemplified in his neighborhood. (Camera being installed and the reporting of an accident). He stated that he was very thankful for the leadership and guidance that Chief Mark Holtzman and his police department gives for the entire City of Greenville.

Introduction—New NAB Ombudsman – Christy Williamson

Ms. Christy Williamson stated her background was in law enforcement, she was in crime prevention with the Pitt County Sheriff Department. She also has worked in property management and customer service. She is involved with community gardens and starting neighborhood associations. Christy provided the group with how her office will be working with existing neighborhood associations and hopefully starting more groups. Christy works closely with Greenville Police Department and Community Outreach. Her goal is to get more neighborhood associations involved to make neighborhoods a better environment.

Guest Speakers – Chief Mark Holtzman and Captain Robert Williams, Investigations

Crime Prevention, “See Something, Say Something”

Swift Resolution By Police Of South Evans Corridor Neighborhood Robberies

Chief Mark Holtzman stated that what he wanted to talk about some very interesting projects and a case review. He stated that for the remainder of the meeting he and the command staff would be using a tag-team approach to the discussion topics. He introduced Cpt. Robert A. Williams explained how the Investigations Bureau worked in collaboration help to bring the case to closure.

Cpt. Robert A. Williams stated that the police department received robberies from time to time, but for one neighborhood to have a series of robberies over the course of a few weeks was even rare to the police dept. The first robbery was reported on Williamsburg Drive on October 20th. At 11:00 or 11:30 p.m. a couple was approached in their driveway, and robbed.

Time-line of the Crimes - How the Crime was Solved

- The police department utilized the traffic cameras from Greenville Boulevard, Martinsborough Road and Evans Street.
- Set up un-marked cars in neighborhood from the Police Dept.
- Use the police Criminal Intelligent Officer review the footage from the camera
- Used plain clothing police officers
- The neighborhood got involved
- Arrest was made – criminal confessed

The operation ran for 2 ½ weeks, seven nights a week, from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock with a staff of 10 to 15 officers each night. The suspect was caught and he confessed to the crimes he committed. The investigator revealed a suspect was traveling here from Grifton, NC to conduct robberies. Cpt. Williams stated that the operation was very time intensive. He stated that what he wanted the citizens to take away from this is that the citizens may not see a lot of marked cars and sometimes that's a good thing. Cpt. Williams stated that he is certain that if the police had kept that area flooded with marked cars the suspect would only committed in Irish Creek and would not have come

back to Lynndale. In closing, Cpt. Williams informed the citizens on a typical night the police department may have 15 to 20 officers working the 36 square miles. There are 90,000 other sets of eyes in the city that see a lot of things the police department do not see. He encouraged the citizens if they see something that needs to be checked out in their neighborhood they should call the police. The police department will determine if the information is relative/useful or not.

Community Policing- Sgt. Dale Mills, Community Outreach

Importance of Police and Neighborhood Partnerships

Sgt. Mills is the Community Outreach Supervisor. Community outreach is the point of contact for various Outreach Programs. Sgt. Mills works primarily with the adult program and Sgt. Blanchard works with younger youth. He considers the Police Community Relations Committee and the Neighborhood Advisory Board to be counterparts because both committee's goals are to get neighborhoods involved. Sgt. Mills discussed a few programs that he felt was significant to citizens.

- **Civic Liaison Initiative** - assigning one police officer as a point of contact to a neighborhood association, special interest groups, or religious groups is the focus. For the first time the police department has a police officer assigned to the LGBT, Mexican, Hindu, Jewish, Islamic NAACP, and SCLC communities. All the police officers have an interest and want to be a part of the group by volunteering.
- **The Citizens Police Academy** - the next academy will be in September (approximately 25 citizens). The academy is held one night a week for an hour and a half. Meals are provided. The meetings are held at the Police Dept. The academy starts at 5:30 p.m. It is a nine week program. A different topic is discussed each week on police issues.
- **Cops and Barbers** – The program started over a year ago. Greenville is second in the nation to work with the program. There are 14 barbers who have partnered with the program to help open communication community between the police and community. Officer Richard Williams works closely with this program.

2016 Crime Overview – Chief Mark Holtzman

Chief Mark Holtzman stated that the philosophy is very simple you can police your community a lot better when you understand your community. He said that the civic liaison program works collectively with the Police Department to resolve community issues.

Chief Holtzman began to speak on Crime Statistics the fear of crime. He stated that the city conducts a survey about every three years. The survey was just completed this fall and is available online. It shows good positive directions for public safety and for the fear of crime. In particular downtown three years ago the survey was: How safe do you feel going downtown? The rating had gone up 20 to 30% improvement over the last three years. The Chief credited the City Center Unit for policing the area. They showed a high visibility of patrol and safe ways to make the citizens feel safe. Chief Holtzman stated that crime stats only tell part of a story. He doesn't take charts on crime stats to meetings much anymore because the citizens states they don't want to hear about that.

They want to talk about other things such as: vacant properties, streets not paved, broken city lights, and streets not being paved. Chief Holtzman stated that if you ignore all of those things you will have a blighted community. He also stated that crime is down because sometimes the community gives up and actually stop calling the police and citizens began not to report crimes. Shots fire calls are one of those complaints that is grossly under-reported. Chief Holtzman said there are over 500 gunshot reports called in every year and the statistics says that's only 30% of what has happened in the neighborhood. Chief Holtzman stated that police have a gun violence unit that have just started on a cop hiring grant this past fall. The police have seen tremendous decreases in shots fired calls. Chief Holtzman asked the citizens to turn to page 3 of the handout (**Vance CRIA - Crime Reduction Initiative Area**). Measuring the crime hot spots- and measuring how well the police progress is doing in the crime hot spots.

Previous Comparison:

Vance CRIA Comparison			
	2016	2017	% Change
Homicide	0	0	N/A
Rape	1	0	-100%
Robbery	3	4	Up 1
Ag Assault	12	6	-50%
<i>Violent Crime</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-38%</i>
Burglary	10	6	-40%
Theft f/ Vehicle	3	2	-33%
All Other Larceny	10	20	100%
Auto Larceny	3	1	-67%
<i>Property Crime</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>12%</i>
TOTAL	42	39	-7%
Shots Fired	14	7	-50%

Updated Comparison:

Vance CRIA Comparison 1/1 - 4/10			
	2016	2017	% Change
Homicide	0	0	N/A
Rape	0	0	N/A
Robbery	1	0	-100%
Ag Assault	1	0	-100%
<i>Violent Crime</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-100%</i>
Burglary	4	0	-100%
Theft f/ Vehicle	2	1	-50%
All Other Larceny	2	3	Up 1
Auto Larceny	0	0	N/A
<i>Property Crime</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-50%</i>
TOTAL	10	4	-60%
Shots Fired	3	1	-67%

The maps are printed every couple of months, given to the Lieutenants, and a solution for the issue is then formulated.

Importance of Police and Neighborhood Partnerships – Through CPTED

Lt. David Anderson stated that when he became the West Zone Commander he wanted to come up with some innovative solutions to address some of the crime issues. One of the things that he grabbed on to was CPTED – (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).

- One of the principle of CPTED is **Natural Surveillance** CPTED which include lighting.
- **Natural Access Control** - strategic placement of entries, exits, fencing, landscaping, and lighting.
- **Territorial reinforcement** - the use of physical attributes that express ownership, such a fence, pavement treatments, art and signs.

Lt. Anderson stated that there are a lot of abandoned houses in his area. The city is working on demolishing some and revitalizing others. It's all about partnership with other members of the community, with other city departments such as Code Enforcement. Lt. Anderson stated he has compassion for the Vance St. and Myrtle St.

area. He obtained a grant and partnered with Lowe's Home Improvement to build fences and paint house. Residents form the community assisted in completing these projects.

Lt. Anderson gave an example of how he use the CPTED method to help an elderly lady. She lived in a location where it was infested with drug dealers and high volume of walking traffic. She lived in fear and finally gained courage to call the police. The police began to look at her location in a CPTED perspective and provided some simple solutions. They also pulled up bushes with the help of the volunteers. Lt. Anderson gave acknowledgement to Third Street School for their volunteer program. Lt. Anderson stated it's all about partnership. It has been super effective and he hopes to continue to see the benefits.

Public Expression and Questions

The citizens asked several questions, and made comments and concerns regarding the crime and lighting in their neighborhood.

Chairperson Betty Hines asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Brenda Diggs

Seconded: Ann Maxwell

The committee unanimously adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is on May 9, 2017. Meeting place will be announced later.

ADJOURN – 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
Administration Bureau Secretary
Greenville Police Department
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