

**SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE
POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

May 9, 2017
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., at The City Hall Building, 200 West Fifth Street, Room 337, Greenville, NC 27834.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the May 9, 2017 agenda.

Motion: Mr. Scott Snyder
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 April 20, 2017 minutes.

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

The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

Assistant Attorney Donald Phillips clarified the approval was for the revised minutes emailed out around 4:45 p.m. and asked if the committee members needed to take a few moments to review the minutes. No further discussion was generated and the revised minutes were approved.

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED MINUTES:

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion to accept and approve the revised minutes with corrections.

Motion: Mr. Scott Snyder
Seconded: Mr. Lennard Naipaul

The revised minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS / ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Diane Kulik provided opportunity for each committee member and city 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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jermaine McNair; Mayoral

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ted Sauls, Deputy Chief of Police; Donald K. Phillips, Assistant Attorney; Sylvia Horne, Administrative Staff Support Specialist; Sgt. Dale Mills, Community Outreach.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

OTHERS:

Darrin Burnette – Community Watch Leader - Dickinson Avenue /14th Street Corridor
News Media

NEW BUSINESS:

Guest Speaker: Deputy Chief Ted Sauls – Greenville Police Department

Topic: Police Deaths/Police Involved Shootings

The discussion was opened by announcing that this is Police Memorial Week. Data from the Officer Down Memorial Page concluded that in 1791 there was one death of a police officer, in 1975 the number was at 240, in 2016 the total was 143, and in 2017 we are currently at 44. In comparison a News Week inquiry revealed that police officers have fatally wounded approximately 1,000 Americans each year.

The number fluctuates each year with many factors considered on key dimensions. They include:

- **Impact on the Public** – The police department needs community input on topic of concerns to promote transparency and collaboration. The consensus is that fear is at the foundation with the officers and citizens nationally, resulting in our most recent shootings and deaths. Statistics show that there is twenty percent of the population that utilize police services. Of the twenty percent, ten may not like the police and commit unlawful acts and the other ten percent are on the fence trying to make up their mind on how they feel about police officers.
- **Impact on the Police** – The group was reassured that the police department is capable of responding to most any incident imaginable.

However; with police officers under attack in our nation, the response, actions and behaviors have been elevated out of concerns for personal safety.

Some of challenges nationally encountered in the police profession are a reflection of recent police involved shootings and police deaths. They include:

- Recruitment: Officers leaving the profession due to tension, the lack of trust from the community, and fear for personal safety.
 - Body Worn Cameras: The police department has purchased body worn cameras for police officers to promote legitimacy and trust in the community. They provide a transparent reflection of officer encounters with the public. This is a new tool being introduced in the profession that requires training, understanding, and the task of getting officers to embrace the idea. The cameras purchased provide a 270 degree view and the data is securely downloaded each shift the officer works.
 - Hypervigilance: Recent events have officers in a heightened state of anxiety that often negatively reflect in their health and job performance. This usually causes officers to overreact in a situation.
 - Under Reaction: Not providing the adequate response to a situation in fear of judgement by the community.
 - Shutting Down: Not performing any proactive policing, but instead just taking the calls they are assigned.
- **Media Influences**- Technology has made social media information convenient and instantly tangible. As a result, the information received is often raw data that does not provide the opportunity for a recipient to receive the complete scenario.

In closing, Deputy Chief Sauls provided the committee with a list of required annual training that officers must submit to and pass to retain their certifications They include: , Biased Based Profiling, Fire Extinguisher, Hazmat, Juvenile Minority Sensitive Training, Firearms, Driving, Subject Control, Taser, Domestic Violence, and Crisis Intervention just to name a few.

Public Expression and Questions

The committee members asked several questions, and made comments and concerns regarding Police Deaths and Police Involved Shootings.

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The committee unanimously adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is on June 13, 2017. Meeting place will be announced later.

ADJOURN – 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
Administration Bureau Secretary
Greenville Police Department
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