

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

Chairperson Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall Building, 200 West Fifth Street, (third floor gallery), Greenville, NC 27858.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the September 27, 2017 agenda.

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

The revised agenda were unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the June 13, 2017 minutes.

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

The 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
Carol Bass; District 5

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jermaine McNair; Mayoral

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donald K. Phillips, Assistant Attorney
Lt. David Bowen, East Zone Commander
Sgt. Kristian Munguia, Shift B
Billie Jo Viverette, Inv. Staff Support
Specialist

Sylvia Horne, Admin. Staff Support Specialist
Sgt. Dale Mills, Community Outreach
Devinder Culver, Comm. Project Coordinator

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

OTHERS:

Citizens

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Diane Kulik passed out information on Neighborhood Watch. She read the definition of a Neighborhood Watch; which is a group of concerned residents that keep an eye on their street and are observant of the rest of the neighborhood. Chairperson Diane Kulik stated they started their neighborhood watch in 2002. They have 300 houses and over 70 neighborhood watch people in her neighborhood. Neighborhood watch is very easy all you need is a chairman or co-chairman to be the contact for the police. Chairperson Diane Kulik stated that the more people that are involved; the better the program can become. Chairperson Diane Kulik gave a few examples of some things that has happen in her neighborhood so the citizens could see how a neighborhood watch works. Chairperson Diane Kulik stated that bottom line the citizens have to be a team and “when they see something say something.” Call the police and give them a description of what’s going on. The police will determine if they think it’s a problem.

Guest Speakers:

Lt. David Bowen, Greenville East Zone Commander
Sgt. Kristian Munguia, Greenville Police East Zone

Topic: **“Safety 24 Hours a Day For You & Family,” At Home & Around Town**

Lt. David Bowen and Sgt. Kristian Munguia both introduced themselves to the citizens and gave a brief overview of their job career with the Greenville Police Department.

Lt. David Bowen and Sgt. Kristian Munguia both presented a power point presentation. They discussed the following topics and elaborated on each topic into further details. The first topic they discussed was:

Personal Safety (Hardware)

- Security Systems – Lt. Bowen stated that hardware is equipment citizens can select to help with their safety. Citizens now have the capability to monitor a camera that is in their living room right from their phone. The security systems prices are so low now. A citizen can now go to Lowe’s and buy a complete four

camera system that is hooked up through Wi-Fi for about 400 to 500 dollars. Lt. Bowen stated with security systems – a question with be: should you have one; can you manage one. Lt. Bowen stated what good it would be for any citizen to have a security system if the citizen did not keep up or monitor it. A cheap security system by itself would be to place a security sign in the yard and windows without the monitoring. This method would work as a deterrence for a thief. Sgt. Munguia stated that she used a security system that involved magnets on her doors and windows. If the connection was broken by someone trying to break in, and incredibly loud along with go off; that was a good deterrent as well and have the thief on the run. Lt. Bowen stated that he was not going to recommend any type of equipment or getting to recommending different monitoring systems.

- Cameras – The camera system the City have now helps the police department to render colors a lot better on the camera systems because of LED lighting
- Lighting – Lt. Bowen stated that lighting can be a sensitive subject; some people want it very bright; other people may want it a little dim at night. Lt. Bowen stated that lighting is a personal decision a person need to make for their resident. Lt. Bowen stated that the city has invested quite a bit of time and effort in putting up LED lighting in different parts of the city. It has created a huge difference. Lighting from a police perspective not only deter crime but helps identify people and vehicles. Lt. Bowen suggested for personal property; citizens should purchase motion lights, and lights that a citizen can turn on to brighten their entire area. There should be one switch in a person’s home preferably in their bedroom; that if a person hears a noise. The person can walk over and flip that one switch and the entire exterior of their home is flooded with lighting.

Personal Safety (Software) - Lt. Bowen stated that personal safety is each citizen responsibility. Lt. Bowen stated that it was not his responsibility or the police department because they cannot be with a citizen 24/7. It is each citizens responsibility “personally” to take care of themselves.

Situational Awareness –Lt. Bowen stated that situational awareness is paying attention to your surroundings. “Who is a round you, where are you, what are the exits, and lastly always have an “OUT”.

- Preparation - paying attention to your intuition (hairs on the back of your neck). This can come from a glance from another person you’re not familiar with or you walk into a room and something just doesn’t feel right. Lt. Bowen suggests that you pay attention to that little voice.
- Recognition – Lt. Bowen stated to recognize when there is danger and act upon it; also inform others.

Personal Safety (Run, Hide, Fight) – Sgt. Munguia gave a scenario of an incident that happened to her at Crabtree Valley Mall along with her family. People thought they heard a gunshot and the rush of hundreds of people was running towards the exits. The scene was very chaotic. She stated that incident was probably one of the scariest things she had experienced. Sgt. Munguia was reminded that the training she went through as a police officer helped prepared her for her reaction on that day. She was carrying her gun and was prepared to use it. She saw all the signs of a run, hide, fight situation. Sgt. Munguia assess the situation and led her family and others out to safety. The biggest thing afterwards. Sgt. Munguia stated that she felt angry with herself because

she hadn't been paying attention and didn't know where the exits were herself. Learning from that incident Sgt. Munguia stated now the first thing she does when she goes to a place she's not familiar with she now looks for all exit signs.

Personal Safety (Run, Hide, Fight) – Lt. Bowen stated that there are three options for personal safety. It is when a person is presented with a violent situation. Whether it is workplace violence or a domestic situation a person has three choices: 1. Run – excavate or de-escalate yourself from the situation. 2. Hide – remove yourself and find a safe space. 3 Fight. Lt. Bowen give a scenario of the room sitting. He stated the scenario has a lot to do with where the person is in relation to what is going on. If there is an exit in the violence is not between you and the exit. Then go to the exit. Get Out!!! If a person need to hide if they cannot run. To hide a person will need to find a place to barricade themselves, or find a small room, turn the lights off, take a chair and wedge it under the door handle, and stay quite. Lt. Bowen stated that some people have a different perspective about fighting. Lt. Bowen said car keys, a chair, and pepper spray all could be used to help to fight. But it is a personal decision that an individual must make peace with. It is the ultimate decision of a person to be willing fight for yourself and your family. Lt. Bowen stated he could not make that decision for anyone. It would have to be their choice.

Social Aggression vs Asocial Violence – Lt. Bowen stated that social aggression is bullying. It is the attempt to dominate the person. It is also called peacocking. Asocial violence - is social path who has no compulsion whatsoever. This person cannot be de-escalated or talked to. They can take their lives of another person without any warning whatsoever. Lt. Bowen stated that 90% of the people are the type that the police officer can use training and talk down or escalate the situation. An Asocial violence person with an attempt to do harm and destroy is difficult for anyone to deal with. It is something that the public needs to understand that there is not much a police officer can do until after the fact. Situations can be monitored by an Asocial Violence person are dead centered on hurting people without a warning.

Personal Safety (Panhandling)

- City Ordinance – Sgt. Munguia stated there is a city ordinance for aggressive panhandling. If someone comes up to you and asks for money that is aggressive panhandling and it is illegal.
- Impeding Traffic – Sgt. Munguia stated that there are a few panhandlers that impeded traffic. You cannot go to jail for impeding traffic, but a citation can be written.
- Scam- Lt. Bowen reminded the citizens that some people and panhandlers are definitely scammers. They are out to make extra money at the expense of other citizens.

Personal Safety (Neighborhood Watch)

- Be a good neighbor- Lt. Bowen encourage everyone to be a good neighbor and to watch out for one another.
- Engage – Lt. Bowen encouraged the citizens to get to know their neighbors by going next door just to speak to them.
- Recognize and Report – Lt. Bowen reminded the citizens of the slogan, “if they see something, say something.”

Personal Safety (Firearms in the home)

- Personal decision – Lt. Bowen discussed whether a person should keep a firearm at home for protection. He stated that have been a firearm in your home is a personal decision.
- Training – Lt. Bowen stated that if people want to own firearms they should be trained on how to use them and keep the firearm(s) in a secure place away from children. He stated that a good not effective if a person doesn't know how to use it. He asked the question: do you know how to use a gun under stress, do you know how to load the gun, do you know how to clean the gun and secure it.
- Mindset – Lt. Bowen asked the citizens did they have the training and the mindset in order to be responsible enough; not only to possess, but also use a firearm/gun.

Public Expression and Questions

The committee members and citizens asked several questions, and made comments and concerns regarding personal safety, security, guns and security systems.

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

Motion: Mr. Greg Rubel
Seconded: Mr. Scott Snyder

The committee unanimously adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is on October 10, 2017. Meeting place will be announced later.

After the meeting adjourned. The Police Community Relations Committee had a short meeting to nominate a Vice-Chair.

Ms. Kulik then opened the floor up for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Scott Snyder nominated Mr. Greg Rubel as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Greg Rubel accepted the position as Vice-Chair.

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

The Vice Chairperson was unanimously approved by the committee.
ADJOURN – 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
Administration Bureau Secretary, Greenville Police Department

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