

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

March 8, 2016  
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., at Arlington Boulevard Baptist Church, 1007 West Arlington Boulevard, Greenville, NC 27834.

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the March 8, 2016 agenda.

Motion: Mr. Tim Webster  
Second: Mr. Lennard Naipaul

The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the February 9, 2016 minutes.

Motion: Mr. Tim Webster  
Second: Mr. Lennard Naipaul

The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

**INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS / ROLL CALL:**

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked each member and staff to introduce themselves and let everyone know which district they represented.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Diane Kulik; Chairperson, At-Large	Jermaine McNair; Mayoral
Tim Webster, Vice Chair; District 5	Lennard Naipaul; District 2
Gregory Barrett; District 1	

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mary Catherine Stokes; District 4	Jennifer Betz; District 3
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**CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sylvia Horne, Secretary; Sgt. Joe Friday, Focused Deterrence Unit; Devinder Culver, Focused Deterrence Unit; Sgt. Daniel Blanchard, Shift D; APO Jeff Baxter, Financial Crimes; MPO Niki Cates, Special Victims Unit.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**OTHERS:**

Mrs. Betty Hines, Chairperson of the Neighborhood Advisory Board  
Mrs. Brenda Diggs, President of the Oaks Neighborhood Association, and member of the Neighborhood Advisory Board

Mrs. Joyce Williams, President of the Cambridge Neighborhood Association

Citizens from: Singletree, Cambridge, Westpointe, Cherry Oaks, Beech Cove, The Oaks, Red Oak, and Lynndale Subdivisions

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Diane Kulik thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and asked each member to tell what district they were from. She acknowledged Mr. Jermaine McNair receiving the Best Irons Humanitarian Award for 2016. Mr. McNair briefly explained the legacy of the Best Irons Humanitarian Award to the citizens at the meeting.

Chairperson Diane Kulik stated that she set up a Neighborhood Watch in her community in 2002 and encouraged others to do the same. Chairperson Diane Kulik cautioned the citizens to be aware of suspicious activities throughout their neighborhood like people going through mailboxes and showing up at their home uninvited.

Chairperson Diane Kulik stated that if a neighborhood didn't have a Neighborhood Watch, to please start one. She informed the citizens that if something happened that felt wrong to them, to call the police. She stated that a Neighborhood Watch in all kinds of ways can keep a view of what's going on throughout the neighborhood and the community.

### **Guest Speaker MPO Niki Cates, Criminal Investigations – Special Victims Unit**

#### **Topic: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design**

Officer Cates introduced herself and stated that she was going to give the citizens tips on how to bring security measures to their homes, businesses and neighborhoods. Officer Cates then passed out some brochures to all the citizens.

Officer Sonya Cates talked about methods used with "crime prevention through environmental design" which works through 3 basic principles:

- Natural surveillance: This means having adequate lighting and landscaping where would-be thieves can't hide.
- Natural access control: Refers to having distinct points of entering and exiting.
- Defensible space: Refers to having front porches and apartment balconies that add to street surveillance.

Officer Cates stated that (CPTED) Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design works off of a principal referred to as eyes for a street which means opening up a citizen's view from the inside of their residence outside. She stated that a lot of people have a misconception that if you keep your windows closed from your home, CPTED proves that - that is not an effective method.

Officer Cates stated that the common criminal obviously does not like to be seen. "What the police want to do is teach the citizens how to make the appearance that the criminals are being watched at all times."

Officer Cates stressed proper lighting, home maintenance and other safety measures as she discussed crime prevention through environmental design. She suggested placing motion detectors in the front yard at each corner of the home, as well as using doorstoppers to prevent doors from being kicked in.

Officer Cates stated that a citizen could use something as cheap as window alarms that chirp to also help prevent crime. Officer Cates encouraged the citizens to know their neighbors and routines to know when something is out of the ordinary. She said yard work and landscaping also deter criminal activity and there is a guideline that says you should keep your shrubs lower than two feet because it reduces ambush points.

Officer Cates spoke about lighting. She stated that LED lighting is a huge benefit. Because LED lighting actually gives off a light that identifies colors. Color rendering sources on the lights also help victims provide better descriptions of those involved in crime. So if a citizen makes a call to the police department they can now give a better description of the colors that the criminals are wearing; such as: a blue, white, red shirt, or brown pants, jeans or black pants.

Officer Cates stated that Police Department received a grant for LED lighting. The area that the LED lighting was placed was in the Fourth Street area of downtown. This area has now been a deterrent to crime.

Other benefits of LED lighting include stopping offenders from being able to shoot out the lights due to a larger number of bulbs.

In closing Officer Cates stated that the police department did a six and nine months study of (CPTED) and found the program to work. And now at two years there has been a 77% reduction in criminal activities.

Also the Greenville Police Department offers (CPTED) as a free assessment for citizens' homes within the city limits.

Cities and counties across the nation are adopting CPTED principles and incorporating them into local ordinances to ensure the proper design of neighborhoods and commercial areas in order to reduce crime.

## **Guest Speaker Det. Jeff Baxter, Criminal Investigations - Financial Crimes Unit**

### **Topic: Scams**

MPO Baxter introduced himself and stated that he worked property crimes for about five years and he's interviewed so many people in the city who have broken into houses. And often times the criminals he has spoken with the have tried to enter into a citizen's home and the alarm goes off; most of the time criminal leaves the property. MPO Baxter stated that most of the criminals do not enter the property to hurt people. The criminal is breaking into the house to steal the citizens' electronics, valuables, and jewelry. Most of the criminals who take things from people's homes have drug addictions or have financial problems.

Detective Baxter gave people tips for battling identity theft and for avoiding being tripped up by scams.

The first scam MPO Baxter discussed was the IRS scam.

MPO Baxter cautioned to never give money to anyone posing as the Internal Revenue Service and to be wary of scam calls. He stated that the Internal Revenue Service does not call citizens. He stated that if the Internal Revenue Service needed to contact anyone they would send information through the mail and if they did show up to your door they would show proper credentials and identification. MPO Baxter stated that the Internal Revenue Service is not going to call and say: "you know what, you owe the IRS \$2000.00 and if you don't pay us, by tomorrow, then we are coming to arrest you." MPO Baxter asked the citizens if they heard that story. MPO Baxter stated that the IRS scam is huge. The scammer will call and leave a message and when the citizen returns the call the scammer gives the citizen a made up file or case number and tells the citizen to pay by a green dot card or a Visa prepaid card. Once the citizen pays with the card the scammer asks for the three digit code from the back of the card and the money goes into the scammer account just like that. If the citizen doesn't pay the scammer, the scammer will tell the citizen they will have an arrest warrant for the citizen the next day. MPO Baxter stated to the citizens, "Whatever you do, don't send them money."

MPO Baxter informed the citizens that if they received such a call. They are to call the Greenville Police Department non-emergency number at 329-4300 or if it is an emergency to call 911.

MPO Baxter stated that another scam he is seeing is debit card scanning. He stated that if you go through a fast food drive-through and you pay with your debit card, often times the person that's working the drive-through will take your debit card, take your order, but then they will take their smart phone out and take a picture of the front of your debit card, turn the car around and take a picture of the back where the three digit code is. And now they have all of your information. The scammer sometimes goes online and pays their personal bills and orders things off the Internet.

MPO Baxter gave an example of how he was a victim of a credit card scam. And how it took weeks to get his situation straightened out.

MPO Baxter talked about text scams. He dealt with an individual that stated he received a text message that said, "your long-lost uncle left you \$6.5 million dollars." In order for the student to get the money the scammer informed him that he had to pay \$1,800.00 dollars in fees and services. So the student paid the money. The money went over to a bank in London. But before the money was release the scammer told the student that they have ran into a problem and they needed more money (\$6,000.00 dollars) for late tax fees. When the student tried to borrow money from his friends, his friends got involved and told him it was a scam. They suggested that he call the Greenville Police Department. MPO Baxter spoke with the student to confirm that it was a scam. The student did not send the \$6000.00 dollars but he lost the \$1800.00.

Another scam MPO Baxter informed the citizen about was people acting as a family member in distress or being involved in an accident that they need to send a lump sum of money for emergency fees or court cost.

MPO Baxter stated that there are other scams as well such as Dark Web (chat rooms), eBay, Craig list, credit cards, and gas stations scams who will try to steal your identity. MPO Baxter recommended shredding mail, not providing personal identification over the phone, and performing monthly credit checks.

MPO Baxter informed the citizens to make sure they knew what's in their credit report by looking to see that no credit cards have been established in their name without their consent.

MPO Baxter thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting, and again reminded all individuals who believe they have been victims of property or financial crimes are encouraged to contact the police department at 329-4300.

Note: There were several handouts, brochures, and booklets passed out to all the citizens.

#### Public Expression and Questions

The citizens asked several questions, and made comments and concerns regarding identity theft and scams.

Chairperson Diane Kulik **did not** ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting is on April 12, 2016. Meeting place will be announced at a later date.

ADJOURN – 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne  
Administration Bureau Secretary  
Greenville Police Department  
Document (#1023916)