

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

February 15, 2017
Greenville, NC

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., at the Eppes Recreation Center, Multipurpose Room, 400 Nash Street, Greenville, NC 27834.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster asked for a motion for approval of the February 15, 2017 agenda.

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

The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster asked for a motion for approval of the January 10, 2017 minutes.

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

The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE AMMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS:

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster asked for a motion for approval of the proposed incorporating change to the PCRC attendance by-laws.

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

The PCRC attendance by-laws were unanimously approved by the committee.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS / ROLL CALL:

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster asked each member and staff to introduce themselves and let everyone know which district they represented.

MISSION OF COMMITTEE AND PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster 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	Scott Snyder; District 4
Greg Rubel; District 3	Tim Webster, Vice Chair; District 5
	Jermaine McNair; Mayoral

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Diane Kulik; Chairperson, At-Large	
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CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Holtzman, Greenville Chief of Police; Donald K. Phillips, Assistant Attorney; Sylvia Horne, Administrative Staff Support Specialist; Kristen Hunter, Public Information; Sgt. Dale Mills, Community Outreach; Devinder Culver, Community Project Coordinator.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor, Allen Thomas
Council Member Rose Glover, District 2

OTHERS:

Citizens

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster introduced herself and thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. Assistant Attorney Donald Phillips then explained the by-laws in absence of the chairperson. He stated that in the event of the absence of the chairperson; accordingly the Vice-Chair Timothy Webster would serve as acting Chair and would be responsible for the conduct for the meeting. Vice-Chair Timothy Webster then called a short business meeting to order and asked each police officer, city staff, and committee members to introduce themselves.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mark Holtzman, Chief of Police

Chief Holtzman spoke briefly about Mr. McNair. He stated that he got to know Mr. Jermaine McNair soon after he got to the Greenville Police Department. Mr. McNair helped him to get connected to the community so he could do his job better. He stated that Mr. McNair was a good friend with him and he was a good friend to the police department. He informed Mr. McNair that he appreciated his efforts and that he and the Greenville Police Dept. looked forward in working with him in the future.

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster asked the citizens to hold all of their questions and comments until the guest speaker had completed his presentation.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Jermaine McNair

Mr. McNair thanked Chief Holtzman for his kind words. He stated that those words were important because being a community connector is building a platform for service

and action in a community. But opening up the platform and sharing it with other organizations, leaders and other institutions so that they can possibly be more effective delivering services and resources to a community that sometimes fall out of touch between our institutions and our communities. He stated that can render all sorts of cultural divides and things of that nature. He stated that many of you the (citizens) who are in the room who are willing to stand in the gap and hold hands on both sides. He also stated that that is what the citizens had done tonight, stepped in into a gap for their organization, company, and institution and they would hold their hand of what this action process is going to be like and make this process more complete. Mr. McNair stated that before he could go further he must give a tear jerking congratulations and a humble thank you to all the citizens for being at the meeting.

Mr. McNair gave acknowledgment to some of the organizations who attended the meeting. They are as follows:

The Greenville Police Department, Chief Mark Holtzman
Dr. Krystal Chambers, leading professor at East Carolina University
Dr. Bob Edwards, East Carolina University Sociology Department
Mr. RJ Hemby, influence and connectivity from across the river and intercity Greenville
Vidant Medical Center
Southern Bank
Sheena Roberson- WIOA Youth Program
NC Democratic
Mr. Ernest Lee - Director of Pitt Community College Outreach
Attorney from East Carolina University
Uptown Greenville
Jackie Parker- Parker's Bail Bonding
Mr. Garrett Taylor- Up Lift Comprehensive Services

Mr. McNair, the founder of Westgate Agreement stated "Our young people often have the keys to unlock some of the mysteries of what's really going on in a society where some of us, as adults, we may not be out there anymore."

Some people link the west side of Greenville with a lot of crime, but an outreach program and new initiative is looking for support from the community to touch the individuals who live there.

Mr. McNair is one of the initiative's leaders, an idea he said started two years ago at a Police community relations meeting that he hosted in the very same room. Now, that idea is becoming a reality. Mr. McNair stated that we're creating something where everybody can finally can step in and play a role in one process.

The initiative is focused on troubled areas in the community, mainly West Greenville. Mr. McNair stated that every two weeks, Greenville Police will send them names of individuals who've been arrested in, or around, West Greenville.

From there, Mr. McNair and his team (other organizations) will make contact and begin forming a relationship to serve as that person's mentor. During the process, Mr. McNair said they will be able to provide those they've been mentoring with resources offered in the community.

One group participating in the initiative is Pitt Community College.

“We’ll be able to provide resources and a network for students to come in, get engaged, and be a quality citizen for our community,” said Jasmine Spain, PCC’s Director of Student Conduct.

Others involved include East Carolina University, behavioral health specialists, and Vidant Health. Officials at Vidant said they heard of the initiative in January and wanted to join right away. “We believe it is important to be part of the community, and there are a lot of opportunities that we would love to be able to engage the community in that involve things like workforce development, training programs,” said John Marques, Vidant’s Chief HR Officer.

Mr. McNair stated that many of the organizations are already involved in mentoring. But are not sharing the platform with one another and the young people are suffering for it.

The idea is that by bringing everyone together to help those in need, the community can grow from the bottom up. It also streamlines the process to get resources to those having run-ins with the law.

Mr. McNair stated that if we could work with the kids to try to see the issues through their eyes, get a grasp of what they’re experiencing, they actually have the opportunity to not only do better in their life, but unlock some doors that we’ve all been trying to unlock.

Mr. McNair passed out information on the following.

The Westgate Project - Coalition Organizations

Some key benefits are:

- **Synchronicity:** having our organizations functions in sync means that any person that any of our organizations provide services to may also be offered full spectrum of support available within our entire community coalition network.
- **Whole Assessment:** by all local organizations functioning as a coalition, our community service network can be assessed as a whole entity, allowing us to better identify and feel gaps in our community service network.
- **Complete Community Program:** as a community coalition, we can work together to ensure that there is a wide range of group programs happening every day and in every space that may currently be lacking an open to risk vulnerabilities.

The Westgate Project – Business Sponsorship

Some key benefits are:

- Sponsor restaurant meal per youth participant and chances to meet and shake hands with business leadership
- Sponsor games and event passes and chances to meet and shake hands with leadership
- Provide second chance employment opportunities for young people

The Westgate Project – Resource Providers

Some key benefits are:

- Conduct workshops and expos with Westgate community coalition members to be healed and understanding of the resources and services available
- Offering dedicated time to outcome assessments and consensus building between institution and the community coalition
- Advocating for that consensus and successful service models on larger platforms
Identifying a representative to serve on the Westgate board of directors

According to Mr. McNair, a community march will be held on March 19, 2017 to celebrate the signing of the Westgate Agreement.

He stated five businesses are planning to launch or reopen and he will be partnering with them to employ individuals through the initiative.

Those who are interested in getting involved with the project can stop by the NC Civil Office at 800 West 5th Street in Greenville.

Public Expression and Questions

The citizens asked several questions, and made comments and concerns regarding the Westgate Coalition Initiative.

Vice-Chair Timothy Webster asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Greg Rubel

Seconded: Mr. Jermaine McNair

The committee unanimously adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is on March 14, 2017. Meeting place will be announced at a later date.

ADJOURN – 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
Administration Bureau Secretary
Greenville Police Department
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