

NOTES

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Ann E. Walker, City Manager
DATE: March 11, 2020
SUBJECT: Materials for Your Information

Please find attached the following materials for your information:

1. Minutes from the Police Community Relations Committee meeting on February 11, 2020

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Attachment

SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

February 11th, 2020

Carol Ann Bass called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, Greenville, NC.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carol Ann asked for roll call of the committee members.

Committee members present:

Carol Ann Bass, District 5
Betsy Ray, Mayoral
Louis Warren
Scott Snyder
Gregory Barrett

City Staff Members present:

Chief Holtzman
Sgt. Michael Staffelbach
Billie Jo Viverette
Donald K. Phillips
Officer C. Smith
Officer Blackmon
R.E. Richardson

Absent

Lennard Naipaul, District 2

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by Louis Warren; seconded by Scott Snyder. The agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes made by Louis Warren; seconded by Betsy Ray. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Carol Ann read the mission statement.

Carol Ann explained that the purpose of this meeting was discuss relations between the Greenville Police Department and ECU students. She stated that it is also the purpose to discuss any misconceptions and concerns that the students have relating to police procedures.

Louis Warren introduced several ECU students who have collaborated with other students to come up with questions and concerns they have for the Greenville Police Department. He introduced Tucker Robbins, ECU student and candidate for SGA president. He introduced Nash Cox and Charlotte. Louis explained that one of the goals of the SGA is to improve relations with the Greenville Police Department.

Tucker Robbins stated that he is a junior at East Carolina, studying Logistics. He stated that he was president at his fraternity and that through that experience he wanted to do what he could to improve relations between the students and the police officers.

Tucker stated that they prepared a few questions for discussion with the officers. Louis asked the officers to introduce themselves. Louis then introduced Chief Holtzman to the students.

Tucker stated that his number one objective in his campaign is to improve relations between students and police officers.

The first question asked was the biggest challenges officers face with students downtown. There was discussion about how officers want students to have a good time; but however students need to be respectful to businesses and other adults in relation to noise and property.

There was discussion on alcohol related problems; fighting, behavior while walking back home while intoxicated; noise problems while intoxicated.

It was discussed how students have misconceptions about police officers because of miscommunication; not having all the facts partly because of social media.

Tucker asked for explanation of why officers show up to parties and why they get shut down. It was explained to him that officers only show up because citizens has called the department about loud noise. The process of getting a noise permit was discussed on how it can help prevent the noise getting too loud. It was also explained what steps can be taken to prevent officers shutting down a disruptive party.

There was discussion on having a community event with students and police officers, with food and games, to allow students to get to know officers.

It was asked what are the legalities concerning entering a residence without a warrant. Capt. Tyndall explained officers cannot enter without a warrant, but there are a few exceptions. He said that they have to show probable cause for getting a warrant, consent from the owner of the property, and if there is an emergency. He stated that some misconceptions about entering a residence are due to not knowing all the facts of situations.

It was suggested to just keep the lines of communication open with the officers. They were told to call anytime that they needed assistance or had questions.

Nash thanked the officers for their time to listen and giving them information to take back to the students.

Sgt. Staffelbach discussed how they can share with the students if anyone is interested in becoming a police officer or would like more information to contact him at the Police Department. The information can also be found on the City of Greenville website. He explained that he is the recruiting officer and he would gladly share information with them. He explained that it's all about serving the community.

Tucker stated that if he does get elected to SGA president, he would like to continue to build upon the relationships, like tonight.

Louis stated that he thinks that Tucker will do well, as he has done a great job in leading his fraternity. Louis thanked the officers for their time.

Carol Ann made a motion to adjourn; Louis seconded the motion.