



City of Greenville Police Community Relations Committee

6:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 11, 2022
Greenville City Council Chambers
200 West Fifth Street, Greenville, NC 27834

Committee Members Present:

Carol Ann Naipaul (Chair)	District 2
Sonny Bass (Vice Chair)	District 5
Betsy Ray	Mayoral
Diane Kulik	At-Large
Mark Parker	District 1

Committee Members Absent:

Gary Davis	District 3
Sterling Ruffin	District 4

City Staff Members Present:

Interim Police Chief Ted Sauls, Staff Liaison
Assistant City Attorney Donald K. Phillips, Staff Liaison
Community Projects Coordinator, Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison
Major David Bowen
Officer M. George
Sgt. C. Liverman
Sgt. B. Quick

The Police Community Relations Committee met on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Greenville City Council Chambers. Chairperson Carol Naipaul called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Devinder Culver called the roll call.

Chairperson Carol Naipaul asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Diane Kulik made a motion to approve the agenda. Sonny Bass seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Chairperson Carol Naipaul asked the Committee members to introduce themselves.

Mrs. Naipaul then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for September 13, 2022. Diane Kulik made a motion to approve the minutes. Sonny Bass seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as read.

Chairperson Carol Naipaul thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She introduced Interim Chief Sauls who began the discussion with a question to the audience. He asked what they thought was the number one issue brought to the Greenville Police Department by the public.

Everyone was surprised to hear that it was speeding and the associated issues such as speeding, loud mufflers and vehicular issues.

Interim Chief Sauls mentioned that his main concerns were violent crime (inclusive of gun crime), property crimes and traffic safety and enforcement. A lively discussion followed, highlights of which are given below.

Violent Crimes –Gun crimes have seen a slight up-tick. Citizens can help reduce gun related crimes by reducing the opportunities for guns to get into the wrong hands, be they children or criminals by securing guns safely, using gun safes, lock boxes and gun safety locks. Citizens should lock their homes and vehicles to prevent theft of firearms.

Major Bowen mentioned that the Greenville Police Department (GPD) was a member of the Pitt County Firearm Safety Coalition an organization that promotes gun safety. He said that GPD had some gun locks for distribution.

Officer George spoke about “straw purchases,” ghost guns and sentencing related to gun trafficking.

Interim Chief Sauls informed the group that GPD was still utilizing ShotSpotter. It is a great tool because on average only 20% of incidents are ever reported by citizens. ShotSpotter fills the data gap because it can detect, locate and alert police to all gunshot incidents within range.

There was a short dialogue related to the use of a Taser versus a gun. Interim Chief Sauls explained how every situation is different based on many variables such as, distance, attitude of assailant and threat level.

Property Crimes – Citizens are encouraged to lock their homes and vehicles to prevent theft.

Traffic Safety/Enforcement – The discussion centered on speed, injuries, registration, vehicle issues, traffic spots and knowing your rights when stopped. Interim Chief Sauls mentioned that there were many ways to educate the public about their rights. One way to reach young drivers was to teach them their rights during driver’s education classes in the schools.

Red Light Cameras – There was a short dialogue about the program and whether it was still in effect. Interim Chief Sauls emphasized that it is still in effect at the five intersections. He stated that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for any violations and not the driver.

Recruitment – Interim Chief Sauls mentioned that GPD is actively hiring and asked everyone to share this information with potential candidates. He thanked the audience for their time.

Chairperson Carol Naipaul expressed her thanks to Interim Chief Sauls and the Committee. She reminded everyone of the next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm, Tuesday November 8, 2022 and asked for a motion to adjourn. Diane Kulik made a motion to adjourn. Betsy Ray seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Devinder Culver
Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison