



City of Greenville Police Community Relations Committee

6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Greenville City Council Chambers
200 West Fifth Street, Greenville, NC 27834

Committee Members Present:

Sonny Bass (Vice Chair)	District 5
Diane Kulik	At-Large
Mark Parker	District 1
Sterling Ruffin	District 4 – Arrived after roll call.
Rev. Philip Lyon	Mayoral

Committee Members Absent:

Vacant	District 2
Vacant	District 3

City Staff Members Present:

Police Chief, Ted Sauls, Staff Liaison
Assistant City Attorney, Donald K. Phillips, Staff Liaison
Major David Bowen, Administrative Services Bureau
Major Richard Tyndall, Field Operations Bureau
Capt. Kolenya Thomas, West Zone Commander
Lt. Keith Garner, Strategic Services
Lt. William Stokes, Field Operations Bureau
P.O. Ashley Allen, School Resource Officer
Community Projects Coordinator, Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison

The meeting was officially called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Vice Chair Sonny Bass. Sonny welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked Staff Liaison Devinder Culver to call the roll call. A quorum was established.

Vice Chair Sonny Bass asked for a motion for approval of the agenda with the amendment that the presentation be moved forward. Philip Lyon made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment and Diane Kulik seconded the motion. The amended agenda was approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Sonny Bass then introduced Capt. Thomas of the Greenville Police Department (GPD) and Sarah Taylor, Director of Special Projects for Integrated Family Services.

Highlights: Co-Responder Outreach and Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Programs

I. Co-Responder Outreach Services (CROS) Program – Presenter Sarah Taylor

In January 2021, the Greenville Police Department in partnership with Integrated Family Services launched the Mobile Crisis Co-Responder Program. The purpose of the program is to improve the response to calls related to suicide attempts, domestic violence, mental illness and drug overdoses.

This 24/7 initiative was a direct response to the national call for non-traditional community-based partners to deliver enhanced public safety responses to those in crisis. Mobile Crisis co-responders respond directly to the scene of mental health-related calls where they work alongside GPD officers to deliver the highest level of care possible to persons in crisis. The co-responder team members are not police officers, but specially trained mental health professionals. The Greenville Police Department was the first agency in eastern North Carolina to implement a program of this kind.

Referrals for the Co-Responder Program are appropriate for those individuals who have suspected mental health, substance use, intellectual developmental disabilities, and traumatic brain injuries that are hindering their level of functioning. Examples of the types of calls are: suicidal and/or homicidal behaviors, non-suicidal self-injury, psychotic behaviors (hallucinations and/or delusions), substance use, familial disputes, cognitive limitations and brain injury. Some of the key benefits of this initiative are that: the individuals in crisis receive the appropriate care from trained providers, GPD officers are released to respond to calls and individuals in crisis receive the follow-up care and access to the resources/services they need, thus reducing future crises.

In July 2022 the Greenville Police Department was named Law Enforcement Agency of the Year by the North Carolina Police Executives Association because it was the first agency to implement the Co-Responder Outreach Services Program in North Carolina.

II. Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Program – Presenter Capt. Kolenya Thomas

The Greenville Police Department, Charlotte and Greensboro were selected as pilot sites for the STAR program in North Carolina. The STAR program serves the community by providing our citizens in need or in crisis with alternatives to traditional public safety responses.

The Greenville STAR program enhances/expands the co-responder mobile crisis partnership with Integrated Family Services by providing an additional two staff members to respond to crisis related calls for service. It allows IFS mental health workers to provide follow up services and enables STAR employees to provide transport services for clients on a case-by-case basis to non-emergency treatment and service centers.

The Greenville STAR team responds primarily to non-violent, lower risks calls for police service. The team assists police with mental health crisis cases and supports Greenville Fire Rescue on the scene of non-emergency medical/addiction or mental health related calls for service. Examples of the types of calls responded to are: chronic/repeat mental health (non-life threatening), homelessness, solicitation, intoxicated persons (low risk/chronic alcoholism), trespass calls relating to homeless or mental health issues juvenile behavior issues related to mental health or substance abuse, attempted suicide, acute mental status changes, drug overdose, alcohol poisoning and elderly abuse/neglect.

The police or fire department still receive the initial dispatch for the above types of call. However, STAR workers are on duty and available to respond. Officers will advise the STAR workers once the scene is secure and then they will work on scene. Based on the call for service, the officers will provide scene security or leave if police services are not required. The STAR team will then take over the call for service.

Mr. Sonny Bass said thanked Captain Thomas and Ms Taylor for a most informative presentation.

Mr. Sonny Bass then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for March 21, 2023. Assistant City Attorney, Donald K. Phillips pointed out that the date on the minutes should be March 21, 2023, and not March 31, 2023. Sterling Ruffin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Diane Kulik seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

Due to the resignation of Chairperson Mrs. Carol Naipaul, Special Elections were conducted according to the PCRC By-Laws by Assistant City Attorney, Donald K. Phillips.

Mr. Sonny Bass was nominated for Chair by Rev. Philip Lyons. There were no other nominations. Mr. Bass was elected to the office of Chair.

Mr. Mark Parker was nominated for Vice Chair by Mr. Sterling Ruffin. There were no other nominations. Mr. Parker was elected to the office of Vice Chair.

Assistant City Attorney, Donald K. Phillips turned the meeting back to Mr. Sonny Bass upon the conclusion of the Special Elections.

Mr. Bass asked Mrs. Kulik to talk about her plans for the May 9, 2023, meeting. Diane explained that the topic would be traffic congestion and that a GPD Traffic Unit representative and the NCDOT lead engineer for the Evans Street widening project would be presenting.

A short discussion about the June meeting ensued. Mr. Mark Parker said that it would not be possible to have the meeting in conjunction with Juneteenth due to scheduling conflicts. He suggested having the June listening session on June 13, 2023, in Council Chambers. He said that he had a team who would canvas Districts 1 & 2.

There was a brief discussion about potential topics for the November meeting, to include ideas on reaching out to the churches.

Major David Bowen spoke and reiterated the Department's commitment to support PCRC.

Mr. Bass asked for a motion to adjourn. Diane Kulik made a motion to adjourn. Mark Parker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Devinder Culver

Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison