



City of Greenville Police Community Relations Committee

6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 13, 2024
City Hall Conference Room 337
200 West Fifth Street
Greenville, NC 27834

Committee Members Present:

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|--------------------------|------------|
| Sonny Bass (Chair) | District 5 |
| Diane Kulik (Vice Chair) | At-Large |
| Rev. Philip Lyon | Mayoral |
| Mark Parker | District 1 |
| Eric Ellison | District 2 |
| Rosemary Johnson | District 3 |
| Stacy Ruffin | District 4 |

Committee Members Absent/Excused: All Present

Council Liaison Present: Council Member Portia Willis

Others Present:

Council Member, Tonya Foreman
Chief of Police, Ted D. Sauls Jr.
Assistant City Attorney, Donald K. Phillips, Staff Liaison
City Clerk, Valerie Shiuwegar
Lt. William Stokes
Community Projects Coordinator, Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison

Meeting Highlights

The meeting was officially called to order at 6:08 p.m. by the Committee Chair Sonny Bass. Sonny welcomed everyone to the meeting and then asked Staff Liaison Devinder Culver to conduct the roll call. A quorum was established.

Chairperson Sonny Bass asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Phillip Lyon made a motion to approve the agenda. Rosemary Johnson seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Sonny then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for December 12, 2023. Rosemary Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Philip Lyon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as read.

Sonny welcomed Council Liaison Portia Willis and asked if she would like to say a few words. Council member Portia Willis said she was happy to be at the meeting, especially as she had expressly asked to be the Council Liaison for this Committee. She said she was glad to be part of the conversation and planning and excited to see what we can do together.

Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Chief Sauls said that as the Committee proceeds in its planning process to keep in mind that in his conversations with Council members there is a desire for this Committee to have an overwhelming response and for the community to be present at meetings or whatever form/direction is pursued and for the community to feel they can talk with us about any concerns or issues. The Chief wanted the Committee members to think about what we can do to invigorate the community to be part of what we do.

City Clerk Valerie Shiuwegar mentioned that the role of the Council Liaison was to be a sounding board for this Committee and to inform them of the goals and priorities of Council, so that everyone was on the same page. Valerie expressed how much staff appreciated everyone for volunteering their valuable time, working on the betterment of your community.

Council member Tonya Foreman said she was present today to listen. She mentioned that it was important to listen to the community and meet their needs.

Chief Sauls said he wanted to take this opportunity to present Council Liaison Portia Willis with an honorary Citizen's Police Academy graduate certificate. Council Liaison Portia Willis had attended several sessions and could not attend the graduation ceremony due to scheduling conflicts.

Lt. Stokes mentioned that attending the Academy was a great way to learn about the Greenville Police Department.

A long, animated discussion followed about:

- the purpose of the Committee
- the importance of listening to the community
- the educational presentations
- how to connect with the people
- how to reach those who may have issues with us (law enforcement)
- meeting times
- collaborating with established groups
- are we reaching the younger population
- what issues are important to the community
- how do we find out about the important issues (surveys, listening tours, social media)
- knowledgebase of Committee members

Chairperson Bass suggested that the Committee use the March meeting to continue this brainstorming/planning discussion. Rev. Philip Lyons mentioned that he would miss the March meeting.

Assistant City Attorney Donald reminded the Committee to be mindful that if the majority of Committee members were engaged together in PCRC business e.g. 'replying all' in an email it could be considered as a meeting.

Eric Ellison asked who was officially on the Committee. Devinder said she would send out an updated roster.

Chairperson Sonny Bass reminded everyone of the next meeting scheduled for 6:00 -8:00 p.m. Tuesday March 12, 2024 in City Hall Conference Room 337. Sonny asked for a motion to adjourn.

Rosemary made a motion to adjourn, and Philip Lyon seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Devinder Culver

Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison