



City of Greenville Police Community Relations Committee

6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The Meetinghouse
of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
307 Martinsborough Road, Greenville, NC 27858

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent/Excused:

Rev. Philip Lyon	Mayoral
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Council Liaison Absent: Council Member, Portia Willis

Others Present:

Chief of Police, Ted D. Sauls Jr.
Assistant City Attorney, Donald K. Phillips, Staff Liaison
Strategic Services, Lt. William Stokes
Senior Police Officer, Katherine Slovenkay
Police Officer, N. D. Bryan
Community Projects Coordinator, Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison

Meeting Highlights

The police Community Relations Committee (PCRC) meeting was officially called to order at 6:09 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 with the addendum that Major K.Z. Thomas would not be presenting today. Stacy Ruffin made the motion to accept the agenda with the correction and Mark Parker seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Sonny then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for February 13, 2024. Diane Kulik made a motion to approve the minutes. Stacy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as read.

Sonny then invited Diane to introduce the speakers and topic for the evening. Diane introduced Chief Ted Sauls Jr. and Captain Tara Stanton. Diane emphasized that being aware of one's surroundings was a life skill which should be taught at an early age.

Chief Sauls said that self-defense and awareness of your surroundings was important and that the purpose of the Police Relations Committee was to get out into the community and talk about subjects of interest to you, the community.

Chief Sauls mentioned that Greenville is a safe place, but events happen. He introduced Capt. Stanton and Lieutenant William Stokes.

The following safety tips were mentioned:

- Staying aware of your surroundings
- Trusting your instincts
- Sharing your whereabouts with a trusted individual
- Taking self-defense classes
- Holding your keys properly in between your fingers
- Staying in well-lit areas
- Checking your vehicle before entering
- Keeping personal information private
- Investing in personal safety tools e.g. pepper spray, personal alarms, or whistles
- Watching your drink – avoid leaving it unattended
- Making sure your cell phone is charged

Holiday and vacation safety tips were discussed e.g. cancel newspapers, have a neighbor collect your mail, have some indoor and outdoor lights on a timer and trim bushes and or trees that hide doors or windows (Crime Prevention through Environmental Control).

The Greenville Police Department Vacation House Check program was mentioned. The Police Department will check on your house for you while you are away on vacation. Call 252-329-4315 to request this service.

Tips on how to stay safe in parking lots, while walking, shopping and how to be particularly vigilant when with small children were topics of interest.

Visit the Greenville Police Department webpages for more information - [Crime Prevention | Greenville, NC \(greenvillenc.gov\)](https://www.greenvillenc.gov/crime-prevention) and [Holiday Safety Tips | Greenville, NC \(greenvillenc.gov\)](https://www.greenvillenc.gov/holiday-safety-tips)

Lt. Stokes spoke about the importance of the Crime Prevention Triangle. It states that in order for a crime to occur, all three components of a crime must exist: desire, ability, and opportunity. Each of these components makes up a “side” in the Crime Prevention Triangle, and if you take away any one of the three, a crime cannot occur. The takeaway from this is, do not make yourself a victim, do not give the criminal the opportunity to commit the crime.

The question-and-answer session was lively, and the audience (84 attendees) were very engaged. The castle doctrine, also known as a defense of habitation law, was mentioned. It designates a person's abode or legally occupied place as a location where they have protections and immunities to use force to defend themselves against an intruder. Some of the other questions covered were dangerous dogs, the importance of answering all the telecommunicator's questions when 911 is called, and the locator on cell phones.

Chairperson Sonny Bass thanked the presenter and everyone for attending and invited them to the next PCRC business meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. May 14, 2024, location is to be determined.

Sonny asked the PCRC members if they wanted to designate the May meeting as a business meeting to discuss future plans. The PCRC members agreed. There being no other business. Sonny asked for a motion to adjourn. Diane Kulik made a motion to adjourn, and Rosemary Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Devinder Culver

Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison