

**SUMMARY NOTES FOR THE
POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

September 11, 2013
Greenville, NC

Vice-Chair Tom McCullough called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Greenville Police Department, third floor conference room, 500 South Greene Street, Greenville, NC.

Vice-Chair Tom McCullough “did not ask for a motion” for approval of the September 11, 2013 agenda.

There was not a quorum for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Tom McCullough “did not ask for a motion” for approval of the June 12, 2013 minutes.

There was not a quorum for the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Vice-Chair Tom McCullough asked each member to introduce themselves and let everyone know which district they represented.

MISSION OF COMMITTEE AND PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Vice Chair Tom McCullough stated that the purpose of the Committee was:

- To serve as a liaison between the community and the police;
- To serve as an advocate for programs, ideas, and methods to improve relations between the community and the police;
- To disseminate information to the community and the City with regard to the state of relations between the community and the Greenville Police Department;
- To assist and promote the community education efforts concerning safety awareness and community and individual awareness.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom McCullough; Vice Chair, District 5
Wayne Whipple; District 4

Carol Naipaul; District 2
Brian Paiz; At-Large

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shawan Sutton; Chairperson, District 1
Belinda Perkinson; District 3

Marcus Jones; Mayoral

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assistant City Attorney Bill Little; Sgt. Joe Friday, Crime Prevention; Sylvia Horne Administration Services Support Specialist.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

OTHERS:

None

NEW BUSINESS – Senior Citizen – Safety Issues Concerns

Police Updates – Sgt. Joe Friday

Sgt. Joe Friday thanked the PCRC members for coming to the meeting. He passed out three handouts to all the committee members. 1. NC Department of Justice – AVOID Scams. 2. General Home Safety. 3. Crime in North Carolina 2012. Sgt. Friday stated that with the recent scam on TV regarding the police department asking for donations, he felt that he would spent more time discussing the AVOID scam handout. All the handouts had very vital information on safety for citizen's use. The web links are posted below so they can be shared with others.

AVOID SCAMS

Telemarketing Scams

1. Place your home and cell phone numbers on the Do Not Call registry at 1-888-382-1222 or www.donotcall.gov to cut down on unwanted telemarketing calls. Go online anytime to verify that your phone numbers are still registered.
2. Never give out important numbers like your bank account, credit card or Social Security number to anyone who calls you.
3. Beware of scammers who call pretending to be a member of your family. They may claim to face an emergency while traveling and ask you to send money.
4. Your telephone's Caller ID feature can be manipulated. Scammers can make it appear that your bank, a charity, a government office, etc., is calling.

Sweepstakes Scams

1. Throw away unsolicited lottery or sweepstakes mailings that say that you're a winner. Foreign lotteries are illegal and the checks they send are fake, no matter how real they look.
2. Never send money to receive a prize, loan, or credit card. It's against the law to require you to pay to receive a prize or to charge an upfront fee for a loan.
3. Don't be pressured to buy something in order to enter a sweepstakes. You don't have to buy to enter and buying doesn't increase your chances of winning
4. Don't put bank account or Social Security numbers on entry forms for sweepstakes or other contests.

Investment Scams

1. Never agree to invest in or buy something you don't understand.
2. Read all forms completely, and consult with a knowledgeable friend or trusted professional, such as a lawyer or an accountant, before you sign anything.
3. Don't make a quick decision about investment offers or changing insurance policies. When a loved one dies, avoid making major financial decisions or purchases right away.
4. Beware if a salesperson says "it's a special opportunity but you have to keep it secret," or urges you to "act now" while using phrases like "limited offer," "risk free" or "tax-free offshore investments."

5. Remember, all investments include some risk and you can't get something for nothing.

Health Care Scams

1. Avoid products that claim to be miracle cures or scientific breakthroughs, or say they contain a secret ingredient. Be skeptical of marketing that uses personal testimonials by consumers or doctors claiming "amazing results."
2. Products that offer a "no-risk money-back guarantee" often don't live up to that claim.
3. Promotions that promise a free meal or lodging usually include a high-pressure sales pitch.
4. Don't sign up for any discount health or drug plan before checking with your doctor, pharmacist or the Attorney General's Office.

Home Construction and Repair Scams

1. Be very skeptical of unsolicited offers for home repairs, especially if the contractor comes to your door and says the job needs to be done right away. Don't let them pressure or scare you into paying for a phony repair.
2. After a disaster of any kind, beware of scammers who come to your home posing as government officials or insurance adjusters. Contact the government agency or your insurance company to verify before you let them inside or have work done.
3. When you need work done on your home, ask friends or co-workers for recommendations. Get written estimates from the contractors you are considering. Before hiring a contractor, check their references, insurance, and license.
4. General contractors (www.nclbgc.org or 919-571-4183)
5. Electricians (www.ncbeec.org or 919-733-9042)
6. Plumbers and HVAC (www.nclicensing.org or 919-875-3612)
7. When you select a contractor, get a written agreement that states clearly the exact costs, work to be performed and completion dates.
8. Don't pay before the work begins. Instead, make payments as work is completed. Never make a final payment until work is complete to your satisfaction.

Charity Scams

1. Research unfamiliar charities before you donate. Beware of fake and "sound alike" charities that try to exploit your sympathy for victims of a recent disaster.
2. When a charity calls, ask whether the caller is a professional fundraiser and find out how much of your contribution will go to fundraising costs.
3. Scam artists will pose as representatives of a charity and lie to get your money. Be wary of messages reminding you to fulfill a pledge that you don't recall making, and requests to make a second donation when you don't recall having donated before.
4. Do not send cash donations.

General Home Safety

Please use the following home safety tips for seniors to help your loved one stay safe.

- Consider a medical alert or a buddy system.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and smoke detector on every floor.

- Use extreme caution when smoking. Never smoke when alone or in bed.
- Always get up slowly after sitting or lying down. Take your time, and make sure you have your balance.
- Wear proper fitting shoes with low heels.
- Use a correctly measured walking aid.
- Remove or tack down all scatter rugs.
- Remove electrical or telephone cords from traffic areas.
- Avoid using slippery wax on floors.
- Wipe up spills promptly.
- Avoid standing on ladders or chairs.
- Have sturdy rails for all stairs inside and outside the house, or, if necessary, purchase a stair lift.
- Use only non-glare 100 watt or greater incandescent bulbs (or the fluorescent equivalents).
- Make sure that all stair cases have good lighting with switches at top and bottom.
- Staircase steps should have a non-slip surface.

Bathroom Safety

- Leave a light on in your bathroom at night.
- Use recommended bath aids, securely installed on the walls of the bath/shower stall and on the sides of the toilet.
- Skid-proof the tub and make sure the bath mat has a non-slip bottom.
- To avoid scalds, turn water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or below.
- Mark cold and hot faucets clearly.
- Use door locks that can be opened from both sides.
- If possible, bathe only when help is available.

Kitchen Safety

- Keep floors clean and uncluttered.
- Illuminate work areas.
- Mark "on" and "off" positions on appliances clearly and with bright colors.
- Store sharp knives in a rack.
- Use a kettle with an automatic shut off.
- Store heavier objects at waist level.
- Store hazardous items separate from food.
- Avoid wearing long, loose clothing when cooking over the stove.
- Make sure food is rotated regularly. Check expiration dates.

Drug Safety

- Review your medicines frequently with your doctor or pharmacist and when you take new medication.
- Make sure medicines are clearly labeled.
- Read medicine labels in good light to ensure you have the right medicine and always take the correct dose
- Dispose of any old or used medicines.

- Never borrow prescription drugs from others.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you mix alcohol and your drugs.
- Have medication dispensed in a bubble pack or convenient dispenser.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before mixing non-prescription drugs and prescription drugs.

Recent SCAMS:

<http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Press-Releases/Sweetheart-scams-on-the-rise,-AG-Cooper-warns.aspx>

Safety Tips for Senior Citizens:

<http://www.ncdoj.gov/getdoc/a0982834-d451-444d-a0db-077e7b0f2aa8/SCAMS-8-8-12.aspx>

<http://www.ncdoj.gov/getdoc/f8a52888-39c7-4023-bc58-eb78348683b5/The-Money-Pit.aspx>

Tips on Charitable Giving:

http://ftpcontent5.worldnow.com/wnct/documents/give_wisely.pdf

Police Protective Fund scam:

<http://www.wnct.com/story/23396131/greenville-police-warning-of-police-protective-fund-scam>

<http://www.newschannel15.com/story/17536058/police-protective-fund-faces-20000-penalty-from-the-state>

Public Expression and Questions

The PCRC committee members asked a few questions and made a few comments.

The next meeting is on October 9, 2013. Meeting place is to be announced.

ADJOURN – 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
 Administration Bureau Secretary
 Greenville Police Department
 Document (#962943)