

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

March 14, 2012  
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Richard Crisp called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at 307 Martinsborough Road, Greenville, NC.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked for a motion for approval of the March 14, 2012 agenda. Chairperson Richard Crisp pointed out that on the agenda that January 19, 2011 meeting date needed to be changed to January 19, 2012.

Motion: Mr. Dennis Winstead  
Second: Mr. Tom McCullough

The agenda was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked for a motion for approval of the May 11 – Jan. 12, 2012 minutes.

May 11, 2011 Minutes

Motion: Mr. Dennis Winstead  
Second: Mr. Tom McCullough

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

June 8, 2011 Minutes

Motion: Mrs. Shawan Sutton  
Second: Mr. Dennis Winstead

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

September 14, 2011 Minutes

Motion: Mr. Tom McCullough  
Second: Mrs. Shawan Sutton

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

October 12, 2011 Minutes

Motion: Mr. Dennis Winstead  
Second: Mr. Tom McCullough

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

December 14, 2011 Minutes

Motion: Mrs. Shawan Sutton  
Second: Mr. Dennis Winstead

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

January 19, 2012 Minutes

Motion: Mr. Tom McCullough

Second: Mr. Dennis Winstead

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

**INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked each member to introduce themselves and let everyone know which district they represented.

**MISSION OF COMMITTEE AND PURPOSE OF MEETING:**

Chairperson Richard Crisp 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:**

Richard Crisp; Chairperson, At Large  
Vice Chair Dennis Winstead, Mayoral

Tom McCullough; District 5  
Shawan Sutton; District 1

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Wayne Whipple; District 4

Pat Peralion; District 3

**CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joseph Bartlett, Interim Police Chief; Ted Sauls, Interim Deputy Police Chief; Assistant City Attorney Bill Little; Sylvia Horne, Administration Bureau Secretary; Capt. Ken Laws, Investigations Bureau; Sgt. Joe Friday, PIO & Crime Prevention; Lt. Cheryl Curtis, Area Commander B; Cpl. Connie Elks, Investigations; Officer Jonathan Simmons, Platoon A; Devinder Culver, Community Project Coordinator.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

None

**OTHERS:**

Several citizens and Committee members (CUAV)  
Sheriff Neil Elks, Pitt County  
Boy Scout Troop # 176  
Bishop Allen Jones  
Mr. Brian Destoto

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Year 2011 Review – Interim Chief Joseph Bartlett**

Chief Bartlett introduced himself and thanked the citizens for coming out to the PCRC meeting. Chief Bartlett stated that he would be discussing an overview of the Greenville Police Department's statistics for 2011. He also stated that the report was prepared in 2012 prior to the SBI finalizing statistics for the year. Chief Bartlett stated that the Greenville Police Department is still showing a decline in crime rate. He informed the citizens that the crime rate was not the number of reported incidents; it is the number of reported incidents per 10,000 or per 100,000 people. Chief Bartlett stated that he was happy to say that according to SBI statistics for 2011, the crime rate in Greenville continues to decline. There was a 16% decrease of crime in 2011. He stated that the decline in the crime rate was due to the hard work of the officers and that this trend is evident nationwide. In 2011, North Carolina saw a 33-year low in the overall crime rate. Chief Bartlett stated that there has been a 26% decrease in crime in Greenville during the three years from 2009-2011.

Chief Bartlett stated that Greenville PD measured only Part I crimes under the State Bureau of Investigations Uniform Crime Reporting Methods. Part I crimes consisted of those crimes that are more serious and violent; specifically murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, auto theft, larceny, and burglary.

Chief Bartlett spoke about the number of Call for Service that came into the Police Department in 2011. A Call for Service is any time a citizen calls the police dept. and requests an officer to respond to some kind of incident; both serious and minor. These may range from a homicide to a barking dog or loud music complaint, or a simple parking violation. Chief Bartlett stated that these calls are tracked and there has been a decline in the Calls for Service as well.

### **Public Perception – Chief Joseph Bartlett**

Chief Bartlett stated that there was a catch phrase going around which stated that "perception is reality." He stated that he agreed with the phrase, but said the only problem is perception is based a person's background, observations, and life experiences. Chief Bartlett stated that he understands that different people have different perceptions and that the department makes every effort to deal with those. Bartlett asked those present to look at things objectively. Chief Bartlett mentioned the Public Safety survey being posted on the City's website. There were some responses from the citizens regarding the survey, but Chief Bartlett stated that he complete confidence in the University, Dr. Bloss and his staff on conducting the survey. He encouraged all the citizens to go online and read the survey.

## **Investigations – Cpl. Connie Elks**

Cpl. Elks introduced herself and thanked the Committee and citizens for attending the PCRC meeting. Cpl. Elks presented a power point presentation called “**Lamp on Fire**” to walk the citizens through the beginning of an Investigation’s call to the end, so that the citizen could see what an Investigator goes through from the time they receive a call from a citizen regarding a major crime.

Cpl. Elks stated she wanted the citizens to see and know how valuable they are in helping a police officer in solving a crime. Cpl. Elks walked the group through an actual homicide case. The case started on January 29, 2004 at 10:15 a.m. Cpl. Elks told the story of how a person who was only 22 years old was shot 11 times in the chest while riding his bicycle due to being involved in the sale of drugs. She described the crime scene, and told how she interviewed many citizens from the local neighborhood. Cpl. Elks put a lot of hard work and time into the case by traveling back and forth to Virginia and North Carolina and gathering information from various sources. She showed many documents such as search warrants, pictures, affidavits, written statements, etc. The case was solved recently and suspects were arrested.

Cpl. Elks said in closing that the case started out like a puzzle having only one piece (the crime scene) and it took the citizens to help with the other pieces to help put the puzzle together.

## **Volunteer Opportunities – Chief Joseph Bartlett**

Chief Bartlett stated that the Greenville Police Department has a growing volunteer unit. The department goal is to get as many volunteers as the department can get. The police volunteers do a lot of things at the police dept. such as:

- fingerprint applicants for various employers.
- work as Citizens on Patrol (check resident homes while on vacation).
- work as traffic control (directing traffic at an event or wreck)

Chief Bartlett informed the citizens if they were interested in volunteering, he could not guarantee the citizen they could do everything they want to, but he could guarantee the citizen they would get a good taste of what the Greenville Police Department does on a daily basis. The Police Department is expanding the city- wide public security cameras system in the downtown area. The goal is to have the volunteers to monitor the cameras during peak times.

Chief Bartlett mentioned that the City Council adopted their goals and objectives at the last council meeting. Two of the things that are at the top of the list for public safety are:

- To decrease crime by 10% each year of the plan.
- The comprehensive crime plan – 5 year strategic plan

Chief Bartlett stated that the City is looking at incorporating a concept called “Community Oriented Government.” This is an expansion of community policing. Chief Bartlett stated his goal is to make the Police Community Relations Committee and other committees and organizations an intricate part to help the Police Department make the city a better place.

## **Public Expression and Questions.**

The citizens asked several questions and made several comments.

A member of the “coalition against violence” stated they were developing a profile of qualifications they would like to see in the new police chief and asked if the Police Community Relations Committee was planning to submit their input to the search committee.

The Police Community Relations Committee members voted unanimously to suggest that the appropriate candidate have a background in community policing.

**ADJOURN** – 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne  
Administration Bureau Secretary  
Greenville Police Department  
Document (#922107)