

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

November 12, 2014
Greenville, NC

Ms. Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Police Headquarters (training rooms A&B), 500 South Greene Street, Greenville, NC 27834.

Ms. Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the November 12, 2014 agenda.

Motion: Mr. Richard Crisp
Second: Ms. Belinda Perkinson

The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Ms. Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the October 8, 2014 minutes.

Motion: Ms. Belinda Perkinson
Second: Mr. Lennard Naipaul

The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ms. Kulik asked each member to introduce themselves and let everyone know which district they represented.

MISSION OF COMMITTEE AND PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Ms. Kulik read the purpose of the meeting:

- 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:

Lennard Naipaul; District 2	Richard Crisp; District 4
Belinda Perkinson; District 3	Diane Kulik; At-Large
Jermine McNair, Mayoral	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Aaron Lucier; District 5	Shawan Sutton; Chairperson, District 1

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assistant City Attorney, Bill Little; Sgt. Dale Mills, Platoon C; Sylvia Horne, Administration Services Support Specialist; Detective Augustus Etheridge, Special Operation Division; Detective Charlie Espinoza, Special Operation Division; Corporal Dennis Grimsley, Special Operation Division; Devinder Culver, Focus Deterrence Unit .

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

OTHERS:

Visitor from NCDPS – Probation, Student Government Association, Cypress Glen, and Emerge.

NEW BUSINESS – Greenville Halloween Briefing – Sgt. Dale Mills

Sgt. Mills gave a recap of the Halloween event that occurred in the River walk apartment complex. There was a large scale party located there along with the traditional party scheduled in the downtown area. The police got some information the day before, but did not know what scale the party would be. The command staff sent various officers in various areas to make contact with students that lived there. The police officers met with some of the stakeholders there and asked for their compliance. The property management also during that time was holding a dinner for the residents in a celebration type atmosphere. At that time everything was going well. There were no violations for the police to take any action on. As the night went on more people from out of town and social media outlets (tweeting and face book) about an un-official party that had gathered at two or three locations at River walk. When the police arrived:

- They were assaulted by the crowd throwing bottles and debris at them
- All streets signs were pulled from the ground
- One person got on top of the ECU and danced on it while others took the street signs and broke the windows out of the bus

Officers that were working in the area called in for assistance. The command staff sent more officers to the location along with ECU and other mutual aid officers. The officers quickly took action and they were met with resistance initially and called for chemical munitions to be sent to the area to disperse the crowd. It was necessary at that particular time with the amount of activities the police officers were observing. There was one person rendered unconscious that had called for help and multiple calls from females who were afraid and felt trapped. With people's lives being at stake the Chief made the decision to send the chemical munitions (a gas that is an irritant) which was very effective in dispersing the crowd to move out of the area. Also smoke clouds were set off to chamofague the officers so that they could move in without the crowd having a total vision of them and were able to pull out students who were injured. Sgt. Mills stated the command staff has already started addressing and looking into ways on how to be better prepared for the upcoming year. Sgt. Mills stated there is no way to forecast the future; each year it's like a storm that comes through. Each one brings different elements that the last one didn't and the police department has to prepare each time. Sgt. Mills stated that overall the Chief was very pleased on how things were handled and carried out. Sgt. Mills stated that he would be glad to answer any questions later after the meeting.

Recognizing Gang Activity in Our Community - Detective Augustus Etheridge, Special Operation Division

Detective Augustus Etheridge, from Special Operation Division spoke on the topic – Gangs, Youth and Violent Crimes (Problems in our Community). Detective Etheridge began his presentation by giving the definition of a gang. He stated a:

Gang: *A group or association of three or more persons who may have a common identifying sign, symbol, or name and who individually or collectively engage in, or have engaged in, criminal activity or creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. Criminal activity includes juvenile acts that if committed by an adult would be a crime.*

Detective Etheridge gave the definition of gang activity which is: Activities that gangs are involved in include fighting, vandalism, graffiti, armed robbery, weapon offenses, assaults and drug dealing. He stated that not all gang members are engaged in illegal activities.

Detective Etheridge stated that there are: 4 classifications of Gangs

- ❖ Street gangs- a group of adolescents &/or young adults who see themselves as a group & have been involved in enough crime to be of considerable concern to law enforcement & the community.
Traditional: (Crips, Gangster Disciples, Bloods - UBN, Latin Kings, V.L.)
- ❖ Drug gangs- small cohesive group with a main focus on money & drug sales.
Note: Drug gangs can be subgroups of street gangs.
- ❖ Neighborhood gangs- more informal group without widespread ties.
- ❖ Hate Gangs- Motivated by racial or ethnic biases. (Aryan Brotherhood, KKK, White Supremacists, Black Separatists)

Detective Etheridge mentioned these: Early Indications of Gang Membership

- ❖ Poor school progress and achievement.
- ❖ Truancy
- ❖ Sudden change in personality / behavior.
- ❖ Problems at home.
- ❖ Draws gang signs / graffiti, Use of hand signs.
- ❖ Tattoos or branding on the body.
- ❖ Dresses in gang type attire. (shows interest in one or two particular colors)

Detective Etheridge stated “**Why do people Join Gangs**”?

- Fun and excitement
- Identity
- Peer pressure
- Financial gain
- Fellowship / Sense of Belonging
- Protection

Gangs: 3 main classifications

- **Street:** a group of adolescents &/or young adults who see themselves as a group & have been involved in enough crime to be of considerable concern to

law enforcement & the community.

Traditional: (Crips, Gangster Disciples, Bloods - UBN, Latin Kings)

- **Prison:** A criminal organizations that originated within the penal system and they have continued to operate within correctional facilities throughout the United States.
- **Outlaw Motorcycle:** Organizations whose members use their motorcycle clubs as conduits for criminal enterprises.

Cpl. Etheridge discussed **Ways to join a Gang**

- **“Jumped In”:** Allowing the members to beat on you for a pre determined number of minutes.
- **“Blessed In”:** Being able to join the gang without having to be Jumped in or sexed in. Usually occurs when the prospect has a family member already in the gang.
- **“Sexed In”:** Females – By having intercourse with multiple members of the gang.

BANDANA’S

Gang members will represent their set by “flagging,” or wearing bandanas. These bandanas or “flags” can be worn around the head, face, wrist, ankles, or in their back pocket. Having a flag is very significant to a gang member; typically flags are given at the time of initiation into the gang.

It is considered disrespectful to let a flag fall on the ground and rival gang members will make a show of throwing their rival’s flag on the ground and stepping on it to show disrespect.

Law enforcement can also show disrespect by taking or throwing the flag on the ground. However, it is encouraged to NOT disrespect their flag and to return it during an encounter. By doing this you will be able to gain a little of their respect for future encounters or confrontations.

Cpl. Etheridge stated that **Gang: It’s a Mindset, It’s What *THEY* Believe.** Here are examples of prayer, pledge, oath and motto.

Blood Prayer: “When I die, bury me 5 feet deep not 6 feet, with 2 pitch folk across my chest with a tattoo of a heart on my chest with a red flag around my head with 2 double barrel guns going down my legs with three burns on my right arm or leg standing for the the UBN.”

Blood Pledge: “I pledge allegiance to our flag United Blood Nation in our chapter and to the real OG for what we stand. I Blood under one blood set must carry out a burner at all times and 4 every blood. Peace Almighty.”

Blood Motto: “Blood in, Blood out. You heard.” Blood Concept of War: “Bloods are supposed to be 110% gangsta. A Blood is to eat anyone who goes against Blood so harshly that they would not want to retaliate. A Blood is not to have beef with, eat, rape or rob any neutral at all.”

Blood Oath: “Blood ain’t no part time thing. It’s being down when you’re by yourself,

getting caught and not telling, killing and not caring, dying and not crying, love for yourself, not your enemies.”

Cpl. Etheridge went over the two types of gangs:

I. Street Gangs / BLOODS and UBN

- *People Nation Alliance*
- Color used is RED.
- Orient to the RIGHT.
- Associate with the number 3,5 & 9. (Crown and Star).
- “Slob” is derogatory.
- Under each group is a set or sub set. (GKB, 9-tre, SMM, and V-Day.)

II. Street Gangs / CRIPS

- Color used is BLUE.
- Orient to the LEFT.
- Associate with the numbers 3, 6 & 8. (pitchfork and star)
- “Crab” is derogatory.
- Under each group is a set or sub set.
- (8-tre, 74- Gangster Disciples)

<p>III. Street Gangs / Sureno 13 Sureno = South Colors Include: Blue and White</p> <p><u>Affiliates:</u> Pay tribute to Mexican Mafia MS-13 18th Street</p> <p><u>Numbers and Phrases:</u> SUR 13 Sureno Trece Los Surenos M – Mexican Mafia XIII – 13 13 = 13th letter = M</p>	<p>IV. Street Gangs / Norteno 14 <u>Pay tribute to Nuestra Familia</u> Norteno = North N = 14th Letter Nortenos lay claim to images of the Mexican-American labor movement: Sombrero Machete Huelga Bird</p>
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Lastly Detective Etheridge went over the difference between Tagger and Gang Graffiti. He stated a :

Tagger Graffiti: is viewed by the tagger as Urban Art. The graffiti is ornate and colorful, with artistic letters and designs.

Graffiti / Tagger vs. Gang

- Gang Graffiti: is the newspaper or bulletin board for gangs, they communicate messages or threats, including challenges, warnings & pronouncements of crimes.
- Most importantly it glorifies the gang and makes their existence well known.
- Both of these are illegal.

Detective Etheridge passed out his business cards to the committee for them to contact

him later if they had any questions or concerns.

Public Expression and Questions

Ms. Kulik thanked Det. Etheridge for a wonderful presentation and the other officers who attended the meeting. She asked the other citizens who attended the meeting “how did they hear about the meeting”? A lot of them stated they saw the Ad from the Daily Reflector and town meeting.

Sgt. Mills stated for the December planning he would like to move it to December 17, 2014 since he would be out of town for training.

Mr. Crisp made a motion to move the December planning meeting to December 17, 2014.

Mr. Lennard Naipaul seconded the motion.

The planning meeting was unanimously approved by the committee to be moved.

Sgt. Mills informed the committee members to be thinking about the topics they would like to discuss next month and what districts they would like to hold the meetings in.

Sgt. Mills asked Mr. McNair (Mayoral appointee) to introduce himself to the committee. Mr. McNair stated he was born in Connecticut, but returned later as a native of Greenville to start community development work. He launched an organization called NC (tape inaudible) in June of last year. It is an organization that works to bridge the gap between undeveloped community and their business districts. He stated his views are often and will be a little more sympathetic to the neighborhoods. If he would also express those views and ideas, hopefully they will be creative and engaging.

Ms. Kulik encouraged all the committee members to attend the PCRC meetings. She informed the members of the 3 absence rule of missing the meetings and how important for them to bring their ideas and concerns of their neighborhoods to the meeting.

Ms. Kulik asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Richard Crisp
Second: Mr. Lennard Naipaul

The next planning meeting is on December 17, 2014. Meeting place is to be announced.

ADJOURN – 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
Administration Bureau Secretary
Greenville Police Department
Document (#992147)