

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

February 10, 2015
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the C.M. Eppes Recreation Center multipurpose room, 400 Nash Street, Greenville, NC 27834.

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the February 10, 2015 agenda. Ms. Kulik added (item 8) titled Special Election to the February agenda since Vice-Chair Belinda Perkinson was resigning from the committee. Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a nomination for Vice-Chair.

Ms. Belinda Perkinson stated that she would like to nominate Richard Crisp as Vice-Chair.

Motion: Ms. Belinda Perkinson
Second: Mr. Jermaine McNair

The nomination to vote Mr. Richard Crisp as Vice-Chair was unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the January 14, 2014 minutes.

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

The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

MISSION OF COMMITTEE AND PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Chairperson Diane 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; Chairperson, At-Large
Jermaine McNair, Mayoral	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shawan Sutton; District 1	Aaron Lucier; District 5
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CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assistant City Attorney, Bill Little; Sgt. Dale Mills, Platoon C; Sylvia Horne, Administration Services Support Specialist; Devinder Culver, Focused Deterrence Unit; Interim Chief of Police Ted Sauls, Officer Adam Leggett, Officer Davin Arnold, Officer Sylestine Smith.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council member Kandie Smith, District #1

OTHERS:

#117 BLET Group from PCC, several organizations represented and citizens.

NEW BUSINESS – “Call for Community Mentors”– Jermaine McNair, Mayoral of Police Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Diane Kulik thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and briefly went over a few rules to the citizens before the speaker gave his presentation.

She reviewed the following items:

1. Asking the citizens to hold all their questions until the speaker finishes speaking
2. Allow 15 minutes for questions from the citizens
3. Allow a citizen to ask “one question” so that others will have a chance to ask their question and if time permits then you can go back to them and allow them to ask another question.

Chairperson Diane Kulik introduced Jermaine McNair, Mayoral of Police Community Relations Committee to the citizens.

Mr. Jermaine McNair introduced himself and thanked all the citizens for coming out to the PCRC meeting. He gave special recognition to the BLET group and other community partners that attended the meeting.

Mr. McNair History

Mr. McNair grew up as a drug dealer from the time he was thirteen on up. He grew up on 5th Street and 14th Street at an earlier age. He grew up in a drug environment and got involved in a lot of street activities (drugs, sex, women, alcohol, night club, etc.) He thought he was having the time of his life. Mr. Nair moved on, grew up and matured and was sentenced to federal prison. He went from selling drugs on the streets, to now

selling tuna fish, stamps, cigarettes and honey buns in prison. This was his way of making money since he no longer had money or financial support from his family. Mr. McNair pride rose up because he felt like he was the man on the streets and now his pride kicked in of not wanting to sell tuna fish of all things. As he watched other inmates hustle to sell their products, he found it amazing how the inmates would hustle to sell honey buns and tuna fish, but then it dawned on him “that what was it the drug dealers was hustling for in the streets.” Because there was people looking at the dealers saying: “look at those young guy doing, they are hustling, risking their lives, fighting and killing for what we as normal society consider TUNA FISH.” Mr. McNair stated that: what is it that sets the value system for what we live by. His answer was: our environment does. Mr. McNair gave statistical data on “class mobility” that describes people who dies in a different or higher class than they was born into. The percentage of people who make it of their class is somewhere around 4%. Mr. McNair stated that if the environment dictates our lives that much, he said “oh wow” the young people that are growing up from where he came from.....they are going to die! Mr. McNair said he had to come back, because he wasn't having that to happen. So he set on the path to come back to Greenville.

Mr. McNair returns to Greenville

Mr. McNair returns to Greenville to get started on his vision and work. He begin putting the word out and attending meetings sharing his dreams and telling his vision of the organization he wanted to get started called “Hope Encounters. “ He passed out brochures and pamphlets to start the organization but he got hit with a curb ball. The first people who welcomed him and gave him a platform to function on was the “Police Department.” They told him that if he wanted to work, they had many platforms he could use. Mr. McNair stated that his motto was: “*work with who was working.*”

Mr. McNair Discuss Police Partnership

Mr. McNair asked the question why mentors, mentorships, and police community relations?

Mr. McNair stated that developing a relations with the officers, started a relationship of “trust.” He didn't compromise street integrity and the police officers knew he was there to work so they would call on him or email him for assistance. Mr. McNair gave an example of how he made contact in search of a child that was head down the wrong direction, since the he knew the child was afraid of talking to the police. He served as a liaison between the police and the trouble child. But over time the response have been overwhelming and he knows that he can't save every child, but he knows he has wonderful network of skilled associates. Mr. McNair called out a lot of names and organizations from the crowd and thanked them for coming out to the meeting. He challenged them all to invest some time and make use of their relationships. Mr. McNair stated that the interesting dynamitic of the Police Community Relations gets to his heart. Mr. McNair just joined about 2 months ago. This was during the time of the Mike Brown and Ferguson case was going on and Mr. McNair had an opportunity to work with local law enforcement all the time and had discuss these topics and there were disagreements. He stated that the problem in the transaction is that when a police makes an arrest. You have an arrest, jail and judge. He asked the question: What do you think that does for police community relations. If this is the only interaction you have ever experienced or watched your friends, peers or family members experienced. What would you think? Mr. McNair stated that the greatest thing an officer told him that

he is not a social worker. Mr. McNair told the officer quote: “you got me” then he said he’s right. The officers are not social workers, because they do not get paid to hang out with the parents little babies. It would be nice, but that is a strain on the job. Mr. McNair said okay what is moving forward and take this dynamic relationship have established with the officers and say when you identify young people in the neighborhood who are problematic or going down the wrong path. What if you had a group community partners you could call on and say: “hey” we are not social workers but would you all check on this child. And the partnership would say thank you officer(s), we are going to take care of this, after all this is our neighborhood. The partnership now develops a personal development plan to help the child develop his/her own plan for their life. You tell the child there are partners who own their own publisher companies, media, law offices. That is willing to help the child by using these resources to do anything to help the child accomplish their goals or keep them going down the right path. Then not only do the partners keep in touch with the child, but with the probation officer, child’s parents, the officer who may have arrest the child. Now the partners are now sayingthe child is doing a great job, they are making a mistake here or there, but we are working with them. Now the officers will come back into the community and now they will have these stories of positive development of transactions that have happen to the child. So now when the young child starts to achieve certain successes; the child can say it’s not only is due to certain partners, but it’s due to the officer(s) because he cared enough to not just grab the child and throw he/she in jail. Mr. McNair stated the citizen is they could see how this transaction could be so beneficial. So now the police officers could go back into the community and when they run into the young child(ren) again, now the child is not just a story or offender . The child is an actual story and the officer completed his job without being a social worker. Mr. McNair stated that this improves the relationships between police and communities.

Mr. McNair spoke on Focus Deterrence

It is a program where the police officers actually go out into the community and identify young people who are repeat offenders. The police dept. conducted a “call in” meaning they call the offenders in and the police have two conversations. 1st conversation is: offender you are going down the wrong path and we are going to help you by giving you these resources (food, shelter, job, housing, mental health, etc.)

The 2nd conversation to the offender is: the police dept. also has the FBI, EEA, DA, Sheriff, and local chief of every neighboring town. If the offender commits another crime that is of that collaborate; the police dept. will make sure that the penalty is so real that it will send a message that will resonate through the community. Mr. McNair stated that the proof says that when you inflict or exact swift and strict punishment that the crime will deter and that is a fact. Mr. McNair asked the question: Do everyone (citizen) see why this all tie in; and he stated it will never work if it’s not all of us helping or assisting. Now moving forward, Mr. McNair stated he wanted to show the citizens how the program works moving forward.

How Partnership Works Moving Forward

Mr. McNair stated that by the time a young person gets arrested they have already fallen through the cracks at school, at home and in the community. Mr. McNair asked the question: What if we as citizens could take the same approach and set up partnerships with the school administers. He stated that there is one guidance counselor to three hundred children and the kids are not going to talk to a guidance

counselor; nor teacher like they would to someone else. But, what if the teacher, just like the police officers had an organization that they could call that could informally speak with the child so that the partnership could identify the problem areas before a child is picked up by the police.

Mr. McNair shared some statistic data: He stated that we have high schools in our community who post high SAT scores, but low comprehension scores. He asked how that is possible. He stated that in his opinion/ suspicious that all students are not taking SAT's. He stated that if there are kids who are taking the SAT's; if all the kids who are taking the SAT's are scoring high; but competencies score are for all kids. Then where are those kids that are not taking the SAT's. Mr. Nair stated his suspicion is that those might be the neighborhood kids who have low competencies scores who is not what we call a college track. It's possible that if a kid is not on a college track, a kid may not take the SAT's because that is what the SAT's are for. So if young kids are falling through the cracks because school is the only tracking that our young people have. So once a young child falls off in school; who is out there to pick them up; where is the catch tray for those kids who fall off track in school. Once they get into the streets; the catch tray is the JAIL. When they are picked up by the police and taken to jail that is the only catch tray our society has. Mr. McNair stated that we (citizens) are the missing pieces. If parents were more involved, they could connect the kids to all the resources. As parents, we are expecting our kids to connect themselves and they can't. Mr. McNair gave a shout out to all the dignitaries for all of their work and challenge the other men to step up to the plate to help create action on a smaller level then the partnership would become so dynamic and so fruitful. Mr. McNair challenged everyone in attendance at the PCRC meeting to sign up to become a volunteer to serve as partners/mentors.

Public Expression and Questions

There were several question and concerns made by the citizens. (All recorded on tape)

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Jermaine McNair
Second: Ms. Belinda Perkinson

The next planning meeting is on March 10, 2015. Meeting place is to be announced.

ADJOURN – 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
Administration Bureau Secretary
Greenville Police Department
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