

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

May 11th, 2021

Carol Ann Bass called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., at the Greenville Police Department. Since the meeting was held virtually, Sgt. Staffelbach and Carol Ann Bass were the only attendees present in. All other attendees were participating virtually.

## **INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Carol Ann called the meeting to order. Donald called roll call of the committee members.

### **Committee members present:**

Carol Ann Bass, District #5  
Betsy Ray, Mayoral  
Carol Ann Naipaul, District #2  
Robert Cherry, District #4  
Louis Warren, At-large  
Kevon Gainer, District #1

### **City Staff Members present:**

Sgt. Michael Staffelbach  
Billie Jo Viverette  
Donald K. Phillips  
Deputy Chief Ted Sauls  
Devinder Culver  
Camillia Smith, City Clerk's office

### **Absent**

Robert King, District #3

Carol Ann asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Louis Warren made the motion; seconded by Betsy Ray. Donald called roll call for vote from each committee member:

Kevon Gainer (not present at this time; joined the meeting later)  
Carol Ann Naipaul – Yes  
Robert King – (not present)  
Robert Cherry – Yes  
Carol Ann Bass – Yes  
Louis Warren - Yes  
Betsy Ray – Yes

The agenda was approved unanimously. Approval for the March minutes was asked. Betsy Ray made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Carol Ann Naipaul. Donald called roll call for vote from each committee member:

Kevon Gainer (not present at this time; joined the meeting later)  
Carol Ann Naipaul – Yes  
Robert King – (not present)  
Robert Cherry – Yes  
Carol Ann Bass – Yes  
Louis Warren - Yes  
Betsy Ray – Yes

The motion carried and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Donald reviewed the rules and by-laws of the PCRC committee with everyone. Donald then asked for a motion to deem, by ratification, the sending of the agenda packet to the members as being timely in compliance with the by-laws. Betsy Ray made the motion; Carol Ann Naipaul seconded the motion. Donald called roll call for the motion.

Kevon Gainer	(not present at this time)
Carol Ann Naipaul	Yes
Robert King	(not present)
Robert Cherry	Yes
Carol Ann Bass	Yes
Louis Warren	Yes
Betsy Ray	Yes

Carol Ann Bass read the mission statement. She then introduced the guest speaker, Deputy Chief Ted Sauls, and explained that he is here to discuss the Greenville Police Department's efforts towards gun violence reduction.

Deputy Chief Sauls stated that he is attending the Chief's conference in Cherokee, North Carolina and thanked everyone for letting him participate in tonight's meeting. He stated that he was ready for the time for meetings to be held in person, however he encouraged everyone to stay motivated during this time with restrictions still going on.

He discussed the fact that the topic of gun violence was talked about at the Chief's conference in many ways. He stated that he learned that during the Covid pandemic that the rise of gun violence increased everywhere, not just here in Greenville. He stated that trend that is going up is happening all throughout our nation.

He stated that a new program was implemented to drive those numbers back down. The new program is called 4DX, which is a principle of management; the four disciplines of execution that teaches us how to manage our overall operation for effectiveness. He stated that the officers have done a tremendous job with this new program. He explained how the program was used to combat the rise of property crimes. He stated that they saw a big difference in the number of property crimes, so now the program will be used for gun violence reduction. He

stated that we don't take away our attention from property crimes; he explained that we are just now putting our main focus on gun violence reduction.

He discussed how more focus will be placed on forensics to solve report gun violence activity. He discussed how the Greenville Police Department participates with the Rocky Mount Police Department in a national database referred to by its acronym as NIBIN (National Index of Ballistics). He explained how photographs are taken of bullet casings and projectiles and sent to be put into the database in hopes of linking various weapons used in various incidents.

He discussed how more emphasis and instruction will be placed on improving the customer service aspect from the officers. He said that the next focus will be placed on public service announcements. He discussed how public service announcements would be used to educate the public in various topics, which could potentially help with gun violence reduction.

He encouraged everyone to reach out to the communities in their districts. He stated that this committee is a link of communication for the police department, and that any information, ideas, or questions are welcomed. He stated that this collaboration in working with the community is a great asset to bringing down the numbers of all crimes. He encouraged the members to please contact the police department with any concerns or questions. He also stated that if they need a representative from the department to attend one of their district meetings, to not hesitate to call. He stated that a representative would absolutely go there for discussion and answer any questions.

Carol Ann Bass asked why the number of traffic stops have gone down. She asked if it was because the main focus is on gun violence reduction right now. D.C. Sauls stated that traffic stops have slow down, but it may be partially due to covid. He discussed how police officers still had to be in the community during the pandemic, but that it may have played a part in less stops being made. He stated that Chief Holtzman discussed at the last staff meeting this with the zone commanders. He told them that they need to focus on areas where speeding is too high, with high traffic accidents and where safety violations are increasing.

Kevon Gainer joined the virtual meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Betsy Ray said that you stated that there was a reduction in property crimes in 2020. She asked what measures were being used to cause that reduction. D.C. Sauls said that's a good question. He stated that the 4DX program is used to accomplish certain goals. He discussed how the program teaches individuals how they can utilize their own goals to achieve the main goal, which was to reduce property crimes.

Carol Ann Bass asked if there were any more questions for D.C. Sauls. Since there were not anymore questions, D.C. Sauls thanked everyone for keeping things going during these different times right now. He thanked everyone for allowing him to speak tonight, and stated that he looks forward to seeing everyone in person. D.C. Sauls then left the virtual meeting.

Betsy Ray welcomed Kevon Gainer as a new member to the committee.

Sgt. Staffelbach asked if anyone had anything that they wanted to add or discuss. Carol Ann Naipaul stated that she did not have any questions. Betsy Ray stated that she didn't have

anything, but that this was a good meeting. Kevon Gainer did not have anything to add. Louis Warren did not have anything to add. Robert Cherry thanked Sgt. Staffelbach for allowing everyone the opportunity to comment. He stated that first he would like to acknowledge that this week is Police Week. He thanked Sgt. Staffelbach, and wished he had thanked D.C. Sauls while he was still online, and everyone at the Greenville Police Department for their service to the citizens of Greenville, North Carolina. He stated that he is pleased by much of what he has seen lately with the Police Department. He stated that he was especially pleased with Officer Zeidan, who responded to a suicidal citizen in crisis and was able to have a positive outcome with the assistance of Mobile Crisis. He wanted to also thank Officer Williams, who provided athletic equipment to a group of kids. He said that's something to be applauded and it speaks volumes to the impact of community policing. He stated that he also has some concerns as D.C. Sauls spoke about with the increase in traffic accidents; and the impacts that come along with that. He stated that he looks forward to the model to use be used for traffic, that was used for property crimes with positive results.

Sgt. Staffelbach stated that is something that maybe we can plan for in the fall, a Traffic Unit presentation discussing these concerns. Sgt. Staffelbach asked if Mr. Phillips had anything to discuss.

Donald discussed how we're trying to improve on the short by-laws. He stated that we're trying to modify the timeline on the agenda packet being sent out to members. He stated that there will possibly be discussion on the by-laws later.

There was discussion on how the link is shared with the public. Donald stated that the city clerk's office shares the links on the city webpage.

Carol Ann Bass asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Donald explained the voting rules to Kevon Gainer. Betsy Ray made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Carol Ann Naipaul. Donald called roll call for each member's vote on adjourning the meeting.

Kevon Gainer	Nay
Carol Ann Naipaul	Yes
Robert Cherry	Yes
Robert King	(not present)
Carol Ann Bass	Yes
Louis Warren	Yes
Betsy Ray	Yes

Donald stated that the vote is 5 to 1 to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.