

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

March 12, 2015
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the J.H. Rose High School Auditorium, 600 West Arlington Blvd, Greenville, NC 27834.

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the March 12, 2015 agenda.

Motion: Mr. Richard Crisp
Second: Mr. Tim Webster

The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the February 10, 2015 minutes.

Motion: Mr. Tim Webster
Second: Mr. Richard Crisp

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.

Chairperson Diane Kulik stated that a lot of what PCRC do is go out into the different voting districts and discuss different topics. The next thing Chairperson Diane Kulik brought up was the next meeting which is on April 14, 2015 held in the Lynndale Subdivision at The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. The speaker is Superior Court Judge Marvin Blount. Mr. Blount will be in Halifax County during the day. Chairperson Diane Kulik stated that she needed to move the meeting to 7:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m.

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval to move the April 14, 2015

PCRC meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Lennard Naipaul
Second: Mr. Tim Webster

The PCRC meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. were unanimously approved by the committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lennard Naipaul; District 2	Richard Crisp; District 4
Tim Webster, District 5	Diane Kulik; Chairperson, At-Large
Jermaine McNair, Mayoral	Shawan Sutton; District 1

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

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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.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Pro-Tem Calvin Mercer, Council Member At-Large

OTHERS:

Several students, parents and citizens.

NEW BUSINESS – “Stand Against Bullying Now”

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.

Assistant City Attorney Bill Little informed the citizens that if they had a question about a specific case, student or incident they wanted to ask about, because of federal and state privacy laws particularly involving juveniles or students and where there is federal funding is involved the individuals on the panel cannot discuss those cases. He stated that this was not the appropriate board to be able to discuss a specific incident. He asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Chairperson Diane Kulik introduced the four guest speakers to the citizens.

Sheriff Neil Elks of Pitt County Sheriff's Office- On Bullying Cases in Pitt County

Sheriff Elks thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He stated that as he looked around, there was a broad audience of children, people who had graduated from school, parents and seniors. Sheriff Elks stated that bullying applies to the entire audience. Some people think that bullying only pertains to little children but it doesn't. Bullying goes through some people's entire life.

Sheriff Elks defined Bullying as: **an aggressive or unwanted behavior. Used again and again to isolate, hurt or control a person.**

He stated now that kids don't get a break from being bullied because it's constantly with them all the time. Now it's through technology and can follow kids everywhere they go; through the internet, telephone, texting and different ways of electronic communications. Sheriff Elks stated now in school they teach a bullying program to give kids tools to comprehend and deal with any bullying a kid may be faced with. Sheriff Elks stated that bullying is changing its way of directions now. It used to be where friends got behind the bully laughing him/her on. Now people are seeing the dynamic changing. Now kids are standing up to the bully. The bully is not the coolest dude as he/she use to be and that shows the law enforcement/ school resource officers, teachers, principals, parents and students they have made great progression in those areas. Sheriff Elks told the kids not to be ashamed when they see someone being bullied.....and to tell the person that it is WRONG! He told them to stand up for their friends even though the friend may not have the courage to stand up for themselves. He told the kids to tell their teacher, school resource officer (SRO), principal, preacher, scout leader, or tell a friend if they are being bullied or felt threatened by someone. Sheriff Elks stated that there is new laws now facing bullying. Now a kid can be charged with assault, intimidating a witness, or aggravated assault. Sheriff Elks stated that back in 2014 the sheriff's office witnessed two students who chose to take their lives all behind being bullied. Both cases were very similar. One of the students, Sheriff Elks knew personally. He didn't go into details regarding either case. He informed the students that law enforcement is their friend and an advocate to help speak out for them and he wanted the kids to remember that. Sheriff Elks then informed the adults that bullying is in the workplace as well, which some people may look at it as harassment. There are people with bad habits and they just don't go away over night. But in any cases it should be reported. Sheriff Elks reminded everyone that usually the kids that are picked on or the big guys or the little kid in class or the kid that has the glasses on or the kid that doesn't have the nicest clothes. He said remember these are your friends. You will always want to grow up with them and twenty years from now they will still be your friends and you would have wished that you would have done something to have helped them. Again Sheriff Elks reminded everyone that law enforcement is their friend and what is told to them will stay private but dealt with. He thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to come out and speak on bullying.

Coach Ruffin McNeill ECU – “Bullying”

Coach McNeill introduced himself and talked about how he was inspired to write his book on bullying as he was walking one day. The book is about what he believes in: “Avoiding Bad Company the (ABC's).” It's about having a circle around you and your job and to protect that circle and pick who belongs in the circle. Coach McNeill stated that he tells the football players to travel in “packs.” He stated that this method tends to

discouraged bullying. He stated that a bully by himself is a coward. Coach McNeill stated bullying not only applies to kids, but adults as well. Coach McNeill stated that he has some things that he is non-negotiable about and that is abuse to children, women and the elderly. Coach McNeill stated that no one has the right to bully another person because of the way they look, what they don't have or the person is defenseless. Coach McNeill stated that at a college level and on his football team they put water on bullying immediately, and that was not going to happen to a freshman, a student without a scholarship, a guy who was not as big or built. His job was to eliminate bullying. We want to treat everybody equally, treat everybody the same." His motto is to: "Respect the Respect. Respect Your Team, Class, School, Yourself, Parents, and Yourself.

Coach McNeill stated that once you gain the respect from others then the environment starts growing. The environment is where he starts all the time; if the environment is right then everything else will fall into place because it protects and won't allow others to come in to be a bully to others who is within the environment.

Coach McNeill asked the question: How do you prevent bullying and he answered by saying being proactive like having a meeting on March 12, 2015. He has a motto: "Action Pirates – Well Done Is Better Than Well Said." He applauded the group for being proactive because it is the 1st step to stopping bullying. He informed the students to identify the bully and point him/her out to someone. He asked the students not to be a bystander and let bullying happen. He couldn't understand how people could watch people fight and video the fight without helping the person or try to break the fight up. Another avenue Coach McNeill shared was to talk and communicate. He stated that more students are smarter and stronger than one student by themselves. Coach McNeill encouraged students not to fight but call for help and letting someone know when you are being mistreated such as a: teacher, minister, police officers, other friends etc. Coach McNeill stated that it was okay to be cool, or to dress and wear your hair different or even wear glasses. But it still does not give anybody the right to take advantage of anyone. He thanked the committee and the citizens for allowing him to speak at the meeting. He encouraged everyone to remain pro-active and not to sit back and do nothing. Again he reminded the committee and citizens "Well Done is Better Than Well Said."

Interim Chief of Police Ted Sauls – "Cyber Bullying"

Interim Chief Sauls gave the definition of Cyber Bullying. It is: "The use of electronic communications to bully a person typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature."

Interim Chief Sauls asked the citizens to give a show of hands if they felt like they had been a victim or a part of "cyber bullying." Interim Chief Sauls posed the question to everyone attending that each person knows when they look at something wrong on phone or internet. He asked how many times a person forwarded something when they know it's wrong and before they realize the impact it has on someone else. A person can put a stop to cyber bullying simply by deleting the email or message and not forwarding the message to hurt others.

Interim Chief Sauls asked the citizens and students the following questions:

What is social media?

Answer: internet, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Vine, Kick, Snapchat,

How many ways can we text alone?

Answer: same as above

Asked the parents how many are reading their child's social media?

Answer: 6

Interim Chief Sauls stated that the problem with cyber-bullying is sometimes the only person who knows about it is the victim.

Unlike the old days when a kid might come home with a black eye, which would be a good indicator to their parents something was wrong, bullying through social media can be done in secret.

Interim Chief Sauls stated now there is a feature on the iphone that will allow you to voice record your real voice and press to send a voice message. This has allowed a coward to be an even bigger coward because they don't have to talk face to face.

Interim Chief Sauls stated he didn't want to make anyone feel paranoid. The mission is just to get the parents to have a closer relationship with their children and protect them. Parents need to know what their children are receiving from social media.

Interim Chief Sauls asked the question: How many kids know someone who has been bullied? How many kids know someone who has been bullied by the internet, text messages or emails?

Interim Chief Sauls told the students that someday it could be them, adult or not, or it could be their best friend. There is a saying in law enforcement "If you see something, say something." This is the biggest defense to bullying. Interim Chief Sauls informed the students that if they see a bad text message, that is a great opportunity to delete and get it off the air. Don't be the person to prolong the message by sending it. He told the students to do themselves a favor and disconnect yourself from your device. He suggested to the students to get involved with something where they could be active and meet other people.

Interim Chief Sauls directly spoke to the parents. He asked them when the police department gets involved (When there is cyber bullying)? If a person is being harassed by email, text, and phone calls. Those are criminal acts and the police department needs to be contacted. There are special detectives that work strictly on those crimes.

Interim Chief Sauls commended the teachers and principal for wearing their SNITCH t-shirts to the meeting. SNITCH stands for Students Not Intimidated To Change Hurt. Interim Chief Sauls stated that as long as there are people like that in our schools that are willing to find their resources officers, police officers, and talk to them and say I got a problem, my friend needs help, we can stop bullying .

Lastly, Interim Chief Sauls told the story of how his daughter at school helped her friend who was given alcohol by another little boy at school, not knowing what she was given. She took her friend to the bathroom first since her friend felt sick then she took her to the principal's office to share what had happened. Two other girls became victims as well. The principal called Interim Chief Sauls to let him know how proud he was of his daughter for having the courage of helping her friend and to let them know what was going on at school. By his daughter standing up and helping her friend and having the courage to TELL WHAT HAPPENED. It stopped the process of other people getting hurt. Interim Chief Sauls encouraged the citizens, students, and parents to take the message and apply it to the slogan: "If you see something say something."

Ms. Monica Jacob, Principal of J.H. Rose High School – “Pitt County School Policy, New Initiative on Bullying, and How To Get Help At Your School”

Ms. Jacob thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and introduced herself to everyone. She stated the key component of any anti-bullying initiative is to have the knowledge about what bullying is and what to do so that you can stop it.

Ms. Jacob stated another part of bullying is communication among our parents, students and other community partners.

Ms. Jacob stated that as a representative for the school system and JH Rose High School, she wanted to share the school definition of what bullying is: It is a pattern of communication acts that places someone in actual or reasonable fear of hurt or feel like the person is in a hostile environment.

Ms. Jacob shared how Pitt County Schools and JH Rose in particular handles bullying situations. JH Rose’s Code of Conduct book does address bullying and it also addresses cyber bullying. Speaking specifically for JH Rose, they do not have any particular chain of command that they require their students to go through to get help. The school wants the students to feel comfortable talking to anyone. So if the student builds a relationship whether if it’s someone in the office, a custodian, a teacher. The school just wants the student to feel comfortable in going to someone and talking to them. The school has an open door policy with the administrators and school resource officers. Once student share information with whomever they choose, those individuals will know who to take the information to so the school can investigate the matter further. Ms. Jacob stated that depending on the circumstances and that’s how the school makes the decision. The school will decide if they would need to bring the resource officer in because the incident will need to be reported further to the police or sheriff dept. or if a counselor will need to be brought into the school or to call for a mediator. The number one person who will be called is the parent.

Ms. Jacob informed the parents that they would be getting an alert message very soon from the schools in the next couple of weeks about a new initiative that Pitt County Schools has started. It is a hotline for anti-bullying. Each school will have their own special number a student can call to notify some if they are being bullied. Each school will have someone to monitor the phone service and will notify an administrator so that the case can be investigated further.

Ms. Jacob stated that as an administrator and staff, they knew there was a need for an anti-bullying program, but also very important the students saw the need as well. Ms. Jacob stated that she had two students and the Assistant Principal who wanted to share where JH Rose High School was going with their anti-bullying initiative SNITCH.

Assistant Principal Ms. Willis explained how the name SNITCH was created. She stated her son came home one day and told her that he got punched in the stomach for helping a little girl who was being bullied. He told his teacher and she handled the situation, but the bully called Ms. Willis’ son a snitch. Ms. Willis’ son said if a snitch means doing the right thing, then I guess I am a snitch. Ms. Willis thought then..... the name needs to be changed. Her son said that he wanted to come up with a t-shirt. Ms. Willis said just because someone else is hurting does not mean that the individual has

to put their hurt on someone else.

Charron Colclough, 15, and Elera Jennings, 18, are Snitches, and they do not mind if everyone knows it.

Charron Colclough said she hopes to visit elementary schools and read the poem she wrote about being bullied to the children there.

The two students at J.H. Rose High School read poems Thursday night at a meeting about bullying, and they just about knocked everyone's socks off with their expressions about what it is like to be bullied and their struggles to overcome it.

Public Expression and Questions

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

Chairperson Diane Kulik adjourned the meeting.

The next planning meeting is on April 14, 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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