

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

May 12, 2015  
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at The Drew Steele Center, 1058 South Elm Street, Greenville, NC 27858.

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

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

The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the April 14, 2015 minutes.

Motion: Mr. Tim Webster  
Second: Mr. Jermaine McNair

The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

**INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked each member and staff 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:**

Tim Webster, District 5	Richard Crisp; District 4
Jermaine McNair, Mayoral	Diane Kulik; Chairperson, At-Large

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Shawan Sutton; District 1	Lennard Naipaul; District 2
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**CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assistant City Attorney, Bill Little; Sgt. Dale Mills, Platoon C; Sylvia Horne, Administration Services Support Specialist; Lt. Carlton Williams, Shift C.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

None

**OTHERS:**

Ms. Mildred Council, Pitt County School Board  
Ms. Brenda Diggs, Chairman of Neighborhood Advisory Board  
Citizens from North Overlook Neighborhood  
Others

**NEW BUSINESS** –Chairperson Diane Kulik added one line item to the agenda. She announced a Special Meeting with the NAB (Neighborhood Advisory Board). She stated that the joint meeting will be held on June 18, 2015, (Thursday) at six o'clock p.m. in the City Hall building on the third floor. The topic of the meeting will be called Neighborhood Watch.

Ms. Brenda Diggs, Chairman of the Neighborhood Advisory Board was asked to come up and talked about the Neighborhood Advisory Board. She stated that the NAB was established by the City Council in the year 2008. The Neighborhood Advisory Board is one of the youngest commissions, but is doing a lot of work with neighborhoods and home owners associations. Ms. Brenda Diggs stated that last Saturday they had their signature event, which was the neighborhood symposium. The symposium was entitled: "Uniting neighborhoods for quality of life." Ms. Brenda Diggs stated that one of the things they do at the symposium is acknowledge and recognize one individual which is called "the good neighbor" and then neighborhoods that are doing excellent work in the City of Greenville. The Neighborhood Advisory Board recognized Chairperson Diane Kulik for the Lynndale Neighborhood Safety Award. Ms. Brenda Diggs presented a certificate to Chairperson Diane Kulik. Not only will Chairperson Diane Kulik received the certificate for neighborhood for their excellent watch program, but she will also be featured on the G-PAT television program through the public information office. Ms. Brenda Diggs read the criteria of how Chairperson Diane Kulik received the award. Here are a few of the criteria:

- A strong relationship with the police department and community officers to lower or maintain a lower crime rate
- Implementing programs using community resources to establish or maintain a crime watch
- Citizens patrol and or block captains
- Residents receive an increase awareness of public safety through education
- Partners with various entities including but not limited to businesses, schools, agencies, faith based groups and other associations

Chairperson Diane Kulik's certificate was entitled: "The Neighborhood Safety Award for the City of Greenville" presented to Lynndale Neighborhood Association at the 2015 NAB symposium on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2015. Chairperson Diane Kulik gladly accepted her award.

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 Lt. Carlton Williams to the citizens and PCRC members. Lt. Carlton Williams announced that Chief Sauls was not at the meeting because he had other obligations and that Chief Sauls was very committed to the PCRC meetings, but sorry he could not attend.

"Identity Theft" – Lt. Carlton Williams, Greenville Police Department

Lt. Carlton Williams passed out a brochure entitled: Identity Fraud Prevention Tips and Reporting Guide, and two documents entitled: Common Scams Used by Con Artists, and Tax Time Tips.

Lt. Carlton Williams stated that "Identity Theft" is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States today; it affects all people regardless of your economic, financial, or residency. Identity theft affects everyone. Identity theft is the act of possessing or attaining personal information of another without the consent of that person for the purpose of conducting financial or credit transactions in the person's name.

## **How Well Do You Know Your Home**

### **Mail Boxes**

Lt. Carlton Williams told the story of how his grandmother used to send him out to the mailbox in the evening to leave the mail for the postman to pick up the next day. He would raise the red flag on the mailbox to let the postman know there was outgoing mail inside the mailbox.

He stated "that he might as well have put a billboard out there saying the checks are in the mailbox." Lt. Carlton Williams stated "that when you put up that flag, you're sending a message to everyone, saying.....hey I'm mailing out stuff."

He stated that some criminals drive around neighborhoods looking for a mailbox with a red flag on it because they know that people often are sending out checks to pay their bills. If they find a check, they can "wash" the name of the recipient off the check and replace it with their own and cash it.

Lt. Carlton Williams stated that there are a lot of people making a living removing mail from people mailboxes. It's what is called 'flaggers.' They go around and watch for the flag on the mailbox. Lt. Carlton Williams said it is safer to put outgoing mail out shortly before the mailman is due to arrive, in a blue secured box or mail it at the post office. He also advised people to remove the incoming mail from the mailbox as soon as they could after it is delivered.

If someone steals something from your mailbox, do not expect much help from the postal inspectors unless it is a large amount of money. There are only five postal inspectors in North Carolina.

### **Trashcans/Dumpsters**

Lt. Carlton Williams stated the next simple way to protect an identity is to shred (cross cutter) all of your documents, including old bank statements and pre-approved credit card offers, before putting them in the trash. He stated simply tearing them in half is not good enough. Someone could get a pre-approved credit card application that's been torn in half, they could tape it back together and mail it back in with a little note apologizing for accidentally tearing up the application, and the credit card company would accept it.

Lt. Carlton Williams stated a while back he was preparing a slideshow for his presentation regarding identify theft, he asked a friend to pretend to be looking into a dumpster for financial records so he could take a picture of his friend pretending to be "dumpster diving."

As his friend was pretending to look, he saw a box of paperwork and pulled it out to show Lt. Carlton Williams. It was an old loan payment book from Wachovia, and it had the name and account number of the person who had taken out the loan. Lt. Carlton Williams decided to test the bank, so he called up the bank pretending to be the person whose name was on the payment book, he gave them his name and the loan number, and asked if the bank could give him his checking account number. The bank gave it to him, "with no questions asked" much to Lt. Carlton Williams surprise!

Lt. Carlton Williams stated that is why people should shred financial documents or pre-approved credit card applications before throwing them in the trash. He said if you do not have a shredder cut your documents up with scissors.

### **E-mail Scams**

Lt. Carlton Williams stated that international con artists sometimes make contact through email as a mean of identity theft. He stated that there are a lot of email scams. There is the IRS and 419 scam. The 419 scam is an advanced fee scam. They will claim the person has won a cash award. There are different variations of the scam, but the rule is do not send anyone money to get the award and do not give anyone your bank account number so the "prize money" can be deposited in your bank account. Lt. Carlton Williams stated that from time to time citizens need to clean out their history and cookies from their computer and also have an anti-virus protection software installed as well.

### **Telephone/Cell Phone**

Lt. Carlton Williams also informed audience members that they didn't solicit the person to call them then you have the right not to answer their phone when a teller market calls or answer their door if a stranger knocks on their door. It is OK to hang up on someone because it is your phone and you pay the bill. Lt. Carlton Williams informed the citizens that there is a "Do Not Call Registry." This is a list where citizens can add their name so they will not be contacted by a solicitor.

## **Front Door**

Lt. Carlton Williams also informed everyone to be cautious of anybody/strangers coming to your door. If they claim to need help or want to use your phone, keep the door closed and tell them you will call 911 for them. Lt. Carlton Williams stated that if someone is at your door trying to sell you something ask them if they have a permit Issued by the City of Greenville. If the person does not have a permit; then you can ask them to leave or call the City of Greenville Police Department. It may be that person is casing your house or just wants you to make quick purchase.

## **Credit Cards**

Lt. Carlton Williams showed a short video of credit card fraud. He stated that the credit card services and banks can put an alert on your credit card where there possibly is irregular spending. He informed the citizens to take advantage of those programs offered by the bank. A lot of the programs are free from your bank or financial institution.

## **What to do if you been a victim of identity theft?**

Lt. Carlton Williams informed the citizens that they are entitled to one annual credit report. Any citizen can go on line and type the words "free credit report." To complete the application for free credit report or they can call the three major credit report bureaus.

Lt. Carlton Williams gave these three listings to the citizens of three major credit reporting bureaus if they became a victim of "identity theft."

Equifax  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
1(800) 685-1111

Experian  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
1 (888) 397-3742

Trans Union  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)  
1(800) 888-4213

Lt. Carlton Williams informed the citizens if they reviewed their credit report and found that they are the victim of credit card fraud, they could start the process of recovery. He stated that keyword in the recovery process is "documenting."

Lt. Carlton Williams discussed six prevention tips for Identity Theft.

1. **Never** give any of your personal information to any one unless it is for financial transactions that you initiated.
2. **Do not** leave credit cards receipts lying around carelessly (especially on the table of a restaurant or thrown in the trash can.)
3. **Always** shred financial documents that are no longer needed in a cross-shredder.
4. **Be cautious** when making purchases on-line (know who you are conducting business with).

5. **Avoid** giving your social security number as a means of “positive ID” when writing a check.

6. **Remember**....if it sounds too good to be true....it probably is!

**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. Tim Webster

Second: Mr. Richard Crisp

The next planning meeting is on (Thursday) June 18, 2015. At City Hall Building, third floor.

ADJOURN – 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne  
Administration Bureau Secretary  
Greenville Police Department  
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