### November 14th, 2017

**SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE**

**POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Diane Kulik called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., at Brook Valley Country Club, Greenville, NC.

**INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked each committee member and city staff to introduce themselves.

Committee members present:

Greg Rubel, District 3 Jermaine McNair, Mayoral

Scott Snyder, District 4 Diane Kulik, Chairperson

Carol Bass, District 5

Committee members absent:

Lennard Naipaul, District 2

City Staff Members present:

Lt. David Bowen Donald Phillips

Officer A. Blackmon Sylvia Horne

Officer S. Paldino Billie Jo Viverette

Sgt. Dale Mills

Sylvia Horne explained to everyone that she will no longer be the secretary for the PCRC. She introduced Billie Jo Viverette, Staff Support Specialist with the Greenville Police Department, who will now be the secretary.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the November 14th, 2017 agenda.

Motion: Jermaine McNair

Seconded: Carol Bass

The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the amended September 27, 2017 minutes.

Motion: Jermaine McNair

Seconded: Carol Bass

Chairperson Diane Kulik asked for a motion for approval of the October 10th, 2017 minutes.

Motion: Jermaine McNair

Seconded: Carol Bass

Chairperson Diane Kulik read the Police Community Relations Committee Mission Statement.

Chairperson Diane Kulik introduced Officer Blackmon and Officer Paldino to discuss Home Protection; what everyone can do to protect their homes and their families.

Officer Paldino explained that he and Officer Blackmon were designated Neighborhood officers for the East Zone areas under the supervision of Lt. Bowen. He discussed how Neighborhood officers work with citizens on problem solving for various criminal activity in neighborhoods. He stated that they are often asked questions from citizens about their rights of protecting themselves and their families with firearms. He stated that they explain to citizens that if they choose to protect themselves in that manner that proper training is recommended. He discussed the importance of proper training in the use of firearms and also on being taught the laws of owning and discharging firearms.

Officer Blackmon stated that if you don’t feel comfortable in owning firearms that there are other ways that you can protect your home and deter criminal activity. She gave several examples of other options that citizens can use:

 Increased lighting on doorways, front and back yards

 Alarm systems

 Knowing your neighbors

 Calling Police Department when seeing something suspicious

 Video cameras with good quality picture viewing, good lighting

 Keep blinds/curtains closed when not at home

 Don’t have landscaping that grows tall and large which would cover windows, doors and

 create hiding places for criminals

Sgt. Mills discussed the importance of not leaving garage doors open and locking all vehicle doors. He stated how important it is to not leave valuables in vehicles and to write down serial numbers and model numbers on property. He also discussed how valuable and beneficial it is to have Neighborhood Watch programs in deterring criminal activity and providing information to the Police Department.

Chairperson Kulik introduced Jarrett Pittman, Pitt County Assistant District Attorney to discuss the legal process of being arrested, and criminal sentencing process for North Carolina. He stated that there are several levels of the process. The first level being arrested and charged by a police officer. He stated the second level is the case being handled by the D.A.’s office. He explained how he receives folders from the victim witness legal assistants every day, which contains information on each individual that has been arrested. The information consists of the warrant with the charges, the name and date of birth, and also the criminal record on that individual. Any information on the individual and on the activity that occurred that will help him in making the decisions on what charges to pursue; whether it is a misdemeanor or a felony.

He explained that in North Carolina, for certain misdemeanors, if an officer did not witness the crime, an individual may go obtain a warrant themselves by going to the Magistrate’s office. He explained the process of officers serving warrants and how it may take some time to serve the warrants because of not having correct addresses on the suspects.

He then explained the next step when someone is arrested, is that they have a first appearance which could be before a magistrate or a judge, depending on the nature of the crime. Then a bond would be set. He explained the process of getting a bail bondsman to post bail, if the arrestees have no other resources. The purpose of posting a bond is to make sure the individual appears in court. He discussed the many factors that is considered when a magistrate or judge determines how high a bond should be.

He explained the process of sending letters to victims, after the subject is arrested, asking for their input and participation in preparing the case for court. He then explained the process of when federal cases go to the Grand Jury and how they decide if there’s enough evidence for the cases to go further. He said then the next phase is the assistant district attorneys preparing the cases and giving them to the District Attorney, who reviews the police reports, the cases, and what plea offers the assistant district attorneys are recommending. He explained that some victims get discouraged by this point, thinking that their cases are not being worked. He stated that however that is far from the truth; it is just that the whole process takes a period of time to prepare for.

Jarrett briefly reviewed the Felony and Misdemeanor Punishment Charts that he provided as handouts.

Chairperson Kulik thanked everyone for coming. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.