



City of Greenville Police Community Relations Committee

6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2025
City Hall Conference Room 337
200 West Fifth Street, Greenville, NC 27834

Committee Members Present:

Sonny Bass (Chair)	District 5
Diane Kulik (Vice Chair)	At-Large
Rev. Philip Lyon	Mayoral
Stacy Ruffin	District 4
Eric Ellison	District 2

Committee Members Absent/Excused:

Asiya Khaatoon	District 1
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Council Liaison Absent: Council Member, Portia Willis

Others Present:

Donald K. Phillips, Assistant City Attorney, Ex-Officio Advisor
Lt. William Stokes, Strategic Services
Devinder Culver, Community Projects Coordinator, Staff Liaison

Meeting Highlights

The meeting was officially called to order at 6:07 p.m. by the Committee Chair, Sonny Bass. Sonny welcomed everyone to the meeting and then asked Staff Liaison Devinder Culver to conduct the roll call. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

Chairperson Sonny Bass asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Philip Lyon made the motion, and Stacy Ruffin seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Sonny Bass asked for a motion to approve the minutes for February 11, 2025. Philip Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes, and Diane Kulik seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as read.

Sonny Bass welcomed everyone to the planning meeting. A quick review of the preliminary results of the community survey instruments (41 surveys received) led to a discussion about potential meeting topics and locations. The discussion centered around possibly reducing the number of meetings and focusing more on the topic and increasing attendance. Some of the topics of interest to survey respondents were:

- substance abuse
- mental health

- gun violence
- racial profiling
- more communication
- know your rights information

Chairperson Sonny Bass asked to have the community survey up as long as possible in order to provide community members with the opportunity to participate.

Stacy Ruffin suggested that the Committee may want to spend some time in April on planning and developing ways to encourage more people to attend PCRC meetings and to review the survey results.

Mental health was mentioned as a possible topic for a future meeting especially as according to some experts, it affects more than 450 thousand adults and youth in the state. Suicide, cutting and self-harm were also alluded to. After a long discussion about mental health which was mentioned more than once by survey respondents, the conversation turned to the Greenville Police Department (GPD) Co-Responder Outreach Services Program and the Support Team Assisted Response Program (STAR).

The Co-Responder Outreach Services Program was launched in January 2021 by the Greenville Police Department in partnership with Integrated Family Services (IFS). The purpose of the program is to improve the response to calls related to suicide attempts, domestic violence, mental illness and drug overdoses. This 24/7 initiative was a direct response to the national call for non-traditional community-based partners to deliver enhanced public safety responses to those in crisis. The Integrated Family Services Mobile Crisis co-responders respond directly to the scene of mental health-related calls where they work alongside GPD officers to deliver the highest level of care possible to persons in crisis. The co-responder team members are not police officers, but specially trained mental health professionals.

The Greenville STAR program enhances/expands the co-responder program and allows IFS mental health workers to provide follow up services and enables STAR employees to provide transport services for clients on a case-by-case basis to non-emergency treatment and service centers. The Greenville STAR team responds primarily to non-violent, lower risks calls for police service. The team assists police with mental health crisis cases and supports Greenville Fire Rescue on the scene of non-emergency medical/addiction or mental health related calls for service. Examples of the types of calls responded to are chronic/repeat mental health (non-life threatening), homelessness, solicitation, intoxicated persons (low risk/chronic alcoholism), trespass calls relating to homeless or mental health issues, juvenile behavior issues related to mental health or substance abuse, attempted suicide, acute mental status changes, drug overdose, alcohol poisoning and elderly abuse/neglect.

The Committee decided to use the April meeting as a planning session, have the K9 demonstration in May and then to use the June meeting as a planning meeting for the remainder of the year, and to decide on the content of the annual presentation to City Council.

Chairperson Sonny Bass thanked everyone for attending and invited them to the next PCRC meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. April 8, 2025. Sonny Bass asked for a motion to adjourn. Philip Lyon made a motion to adjourn, and Stacy Ruffin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Devinder Culver

Devinder Culver, Staff Liaison