

SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE
POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

June 19, 2012
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Richard Crisp called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Building located on Chestnut Street, Greenville, NC.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked for a motion for approval of the June 19, 2012 agenda.

Chairperson Richard Crisp stated that he had one item that he needed to add to the agenda. The item was a motion that the PCRC had discussed on 5/08/2012 with Chief Bartlett. The item was a motion that the meeting focuses for the future center on individual neighborhood or subdivisions; rather than on city wide or voting district meetings. Chairperson Richard Crisp stated that this item will be added as number four to the agenda.

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion: Mr. Tom McCullough
Second: Ms. Pat Pernalion

The agenda was unanimously approved by the Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked for a motion for approval of the April 11, and May 9, 2012 minutes.

Ms. Sutton pointed out on the May 9th minutes on page 2 that the minutes were recorded as Mr. Riddick introduced “**herself**” to the committee and citizens. The minutes were corrected to Mr. Riddick introduced “**himself**” to the committee and citizens.

Motion: Mr. Tom McCullough
Second: Ms. Shawan Sutton

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The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee with the corrections.

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked for a motion for approval of the meeting focuses for the future center on individual neighborhood or subdivisions; rather than on city wide or voting district meetings.

Motion: Mr. Tom McCullough
Second: Ms. Shawan Sutton

The added agenda item number four was unanimously approved by the committee.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked each member to introduce themselves and let everyone know which district they represented.

MISSION OF COMMITTEE AND PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Chairperson Richard Crisp stated that the purpose of the Committee was:

- 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:

Richard Crisp; Chairperson, At Large
Wayne Whipple; District 4
Pat Pernalion; District 3

Tom McCullough; District 5
Shawan Sutton; District 1

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vice Chair Dennis Winstead, Mayoral

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ted Sauls, Interim Deputy Chief; Assistant City Attorney Bill Little; Sylvia Horne, Administration Bureau Secretary; Sgt. Joe Friday, Crime Prevention; Lt. A.P. White, Area Commander D; Officer Christopher Traud, Platoon D.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rose Glover, District # 1

OTHERS:

NEW BUSINESS

National Night Out – Sgt. Joe Friday

Sgt. Joe Friday introduced himself and thanked the citizens for coming out to the PCRC meeting. Sgt. Friday stated that the focus of the PCRC meetings is that the

police dept. wants to make the committee and the dept. more responsible to neighborhoods and to make the meetings for intiment and more dialog driven. Sgt. Friday stated that the police dept. wants to hear from the citizens about what their concerns are and what they think the citizens are doing right or wrong and what the police dept. can do to provide better service.

Sgt. Friday informed the citizens about National Night Out. He stated that this year National Night Out will be done differently this year because of budget constraints. He stated that the police dept. went back and examined what National Night Out was meant to be; according to the way it was created in the beginning. It was stated that National Night Out was really meant to be a celebration of each individual neighborhoods. So if any neighborhoods wanted to celebrate National Night Out. The police dept. would turn to the original concept and have little neighborhood celebrations all around the city. Sgt. Friday gave an example of just having a block party or having other neighborhoods just visiting each other. But, at the same time having police officers and area commanders stopping by visiting and participating in the individual neighborhoods that way so that it would be less cost effective to the city budget.

Sgt. Friday gave out information to the citizens on National Night Out such as: the contact person (Lt. Ed Carson) and telephone number (329-4373) to make contact with if the citizen was interested in having National Night Out in their individual neighborhood.

Crime in the Higgs Neighborhood - Sgt. Joe Friday

Sgt. Friday informed the citizens that this past spring the police gang unit had been doing a big undercover campaign. Last month the police dept. made a "round up" where the police dept. arrested some gang members who were selling drugs. The police dept. also conducted a prostitution sting earlier this year. Sgt. Friday mention that Lt. Allsbrook from Code Enforcement use to work the area, but now Lt. Lucas is in charge of the area now, and if the citizens had any concerns that he would carry those concerns back to Lt. Lucas for him to address.

Sgt. Friday stated that he wanted the PCRC and all the neighborhoods to be sort of the driving force in helping organizing community watch. Because it is easier if a new neighborhood or street wants to learn about community watch; what is an easier way than to contact someone who has already started the program. Sgt. Friday asked the citizens for more feedback. Then he asked the citizens how were their relationship with the police dept. and if they had any issues they wanted to discuss. The issues were mentioned as follows.

- Recognizing the hotspots throughout the city
- Traveling the hotspots
- Traveling the hotspots on Myrtle and 14th Street
- Breaking up guys in groups of three or more
- Asking for id's of the groups of guys
- Trash and Debris
- Illegal Dumping
- Crewfew for Children/and police officers interacting with the children on the streets

- Adopt a Street-community involvement
- Landlord responsibly
- Placing no trespassing signs out on citizens property

Assistant Attorney Little explained in further details information on placing the no trespassing sign out on a citizen's property. He stated that if the property is posted "no trespassing" and someone comes on the property. The police will respond if a citizen calls them. Once the police arrive and see someone on the property. The first thing the police officer should say to the person on the property; do you have permission to be on the property. The second thing the police officer should say to the person is to ask them to leave the property now or they are subject to be arrested. Assistant Attorney Little stated that simply having a sign does mean that the officer can arrest the person. Because the officer does not know if the person has permission until he or she talks to the property owner.

One of the citizen asked if there were crewfews for children in individual neighborhoods. Sgt. Friday said no. Sgt. Friday stated that the crewfew the City of Greenville have in the city is children under 16 must be off the streets by 11:00 p.m. during the weekdays.

Assistant Attorney Little stated that when the ordinance was passed there was a lot of talk about it. He stated the ordinance has been in effect about 3 years ago. Assistant Attorney Little mentioned to Sgt. Friday to maybe put the information out a press relief, or put the information into the newspaper just a reminder to the citizen.

Ms. Glover stated that maybe the council members need to revisit the crewfew ordinance. Ms. Glover also had a concern with the loud music the teenagers' plays in their cars throughout the city and the problem she sees with the males walking around with their pants sagging down without wearing a belt. She stated that some cities have an ordinance in place regarding sagging pants. Ms. Glover stated the laws had to be enforced in all the communities here in Greenville.

One citizen went into a discussion about a good and bad landlord. He stated that he put up a fence beside his yard to keep down the traffic down. One neighbor stated that just by him putting up the fence stopped the traffic, plus eliminated the kids from walking through and breaking the windows and throwing trash on the ground.

Ms. Reid asked about the PAL program. Sgt. Friday stated the program was filled with about a 130 children for the summer camp. He informed Ms. Reid that he would get her a brochure/pamphlet on the program. Ms. Glover stated that there were other summer and after school programs. She stated that Ms. Sutton was the director of programs at the Intergenerational Center. Ms. Sutton stated that the Intergenerational Center serves 150 children – (3rd grade to 6th grade) and the Little Willie Center serves from 1 year olds to 16 years old. Ms. Sutton also mentioned "Building Hope" which is a service for male boys. Ms. Sutton stated that all of the programs are "free" to the community. The programs provides: breakfast, snacks and lunch. The program provides culture enrichment which includes: martial arts, chess, computer, community garden. One last program Ms. Sutton mentioned was a GED program through Pitt Community College. Their orientation is coming up on June 25, 2012. She encouraged anyone to spread the word regarding the programs and get the community involved.

Ms. Sutton asked Assistant Attorney Little the question: "How often is a Landlord business license renewed?" Assistant Attorney Little said a Landlord does not have to have a business license. She stated that might be the problem.

Ms. Glover commented on the matter and stated to the citizen that the citizens can declare a property a nuisance. She stated that as a community the citizens have more power to act than the city can. There is a private nuisance act that the citizen themselves can enact. The citizens can sign a petition. Ms. Glover stated that there were a lot of things the community itself could do since the City's is bound by legislations and other laws.

Interim Deputy Chief Sauls closed out the meeting by talking to the citizens regarding the police and the community relationship. He stated that he understood the citizens' frustrations and concerns. He said that the issues that were discussed at the tonight meeting he would be talking about and sending e-mails out on Monday morning to all the area commanders and officers for them to be aware of. Captain Sauls stated that the police dept. wants to make West Greenville better and that as officers they are doing the things the citizens are asking them to do such as: foot patrol, making the arrest, community policing, working with the youth, etc. Captain Sauls stated that the quality of life that the citizens have in West Greenville, he wanted them to help be responsible for. Captain Sauls stated that the things he wanted to impress upon the citizens is not to let the citizens think that the police dept is against them. He stated that the police dept. is a real small piece of the community and that the police dept. is going to have to partner with the citizens even more. Due to budget constraints the police dept. will have to prioritize calls even more now. Captain Sauls stated that in his 16 years; he feels that there is no way the police dept. can put an officer patrolling everywhere a citizen wants to patrol. There is 35 square miles of Greenville, and the only way the city will fix the issues will be as a community. Captain Sauls informed the citizens that the police dept. had about 58,000 calls for service last year. He stated that if the police dept. could cut those calls in half the officers would have more time to come out and patrol. Captain Sauls stated that he wanted the citizens to trust the police dept. and keep them involved in any ideas, complaints and crime seen in their community. He stated that the police dept. is a good and strong unit that really wants to make a difference in the communities. Lastly Captain Sauls informed the citizens that he did not want them to place themselves in "harm's way", but to call the police dept. on any issues, crime and complaints in their communities. He stated that he wanted them all to have the best quality of life possible.

Public Expression and Questions.

The citizens asked several questions and made several comments.

ADJOURN – 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
Administration Bureau Secretary
Greenville Police Department
Document (#926521)