

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

September 12, 2012
Greenville, NC

Chairperson Richard Crisp called the Police Community Relations Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Cypress Glen Auditorium located on Hickory Street, Greenville, NC.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Richard Crisp asked for a motion for approval of the September 12, 2012 agenda.

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

Motion: Mr. Dennis Winstead
Second: Ms. Shawan Sutton

The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

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

Motion: Mr. Wayne Whipple
Second: Ms. Pat Pertalion

The minutes were 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 Pertalion; District 3

Tom McCullough; District 5
Shawan Sutton; District 1
Vice Chair Dennis Winstead, Mayoral

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joseph Bartlett, Interim Chief of Police; Assistant City Attorney Bill Little; Sylvia Horne, Administration Bureau Secretary; Sgt. Joe Friday, Crime Prevention; Corporal Chris Viverette, Code Enforcement; Devinder Culver, Community Project Coordinator.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

OTHERS:

None

NEW BUSINESS**Community Watch (Speak Up Stop Crime) – Sgt. Joe Friday**

Sgt. Joe Friday introduced himself and thanked the citizens for coming out to the PCRC meeting. Sgt. Friday stated that as a part of the police community relations community committee. He wanted to place a lot of emphasis on “relations”.....meaning getting feedback from the community on things that the police dept. is “doing right” or “doing wrong” or where the citizens think that the police dept. need to make improvements or what the police dept. can do to better serve the citizens. Sgt. Friday informed the citizens that the police dept. works to serve them. That is why the police dept. comes out in the community to have the PCRC meetings; instead of having all the meetings at City Hall.

Sgt. Friday stated that he wanted to talk a lot about community watch and citizens being involved in community watch. Sgt. Friday stated that if a citizen is talking to each other and looking out for each other; then that neighborhood have an active community watch. It may only be five or six houses involved, but if the neighbors are calling each other, letting each other know if and when they are going to be out of town and to keep an eye out on their property. Whether it's picking up the news paper, checking the mail, cutting the grass, and taking the trash out to the curb; Sgt. Friday stated that this is how he emphasizes community watch among the neighbors.

Sgt. Friday stated that having giving the meaning of community watch and as a part of PCRC the police dept. wanted to get the word out in the community about crime prevention and get feedback from the citizens about community watch, crime prevention and the police dept. Sgt. Friday informed the citizens that if they had things they wanted to get off of their chest and discuss with the police dept. that he would be happy to talk about the issues and answer any questions or concern that the citizens wanted to discuss.

Sgt. Friday stated that he knew that there were some citizens at the meeting from Wynham Circle with some issues that have caused them to be un-eased or to have some concerns. He stated that he could talk about those issues along with crime prevention along with making citizens homes safe.

Sgt. Friday stated that one of the things that the police dept does on a regular basis is home security survey. The survey consists of checking door and windows locks along with checking other items on the home. Also there is service called vacation house check and that is when the citizen leaves town and volunteers (citizen on patrol) from the police dept goes out to the home and will conduct a home security survey while the citizen is away for vacation. Sgt. Friday informed the citizens that the police dept. is a service agency and the citizens are their customers and the police dept. product is "customer service" and they want to know if the citizens are satisfied with the services they are providing.

Sgt. Friday then asked the citizens if they had any questions or concerns regarding the police dept or things going on in their neighborhood. There were several questions from the citizens. They are as follows:

- Citizen stated that he was concerned that he didn't see the police patrol cars coming into Cypress Glen as often as they use to. He asked if the officers had a schedule or routine. Sgt. Friday addressed the question by saying the officers are response driven.
- Citizen asked the Interim Chief if the police dept. had enough staff. Interim Chief stated that the police dept. will never have enough staff to do the things the dept. would like to do. (Budget driven and restriction of money)
- One citizen stated that she came to the meeting and did not lock her doors; and asked if that was important to do. Sgt. Friday stated that everyone should practice safety; even though Cypress Glen was a safe community. Everyone should adopt safety practice and lock their doors.
- Debra Nelson a residence of Cypress Glen wanted to know how many community watches were there and she also had a question regarding 4-unrelated living together. Sgt. Friday answered the question regarding community watch (27 or 30 total and half are active) and Cpl. Viverette answered the question regarding 4 un-related living together. (Yes, Code Enforcement is equipped to handle – ordinance has not passed yet).
- Lynn Perkinson representing the new community watch from Cypress Glen stated that she would be contacting the citizens real soon trying to get information together to address some of the needs or issues in their community.
- One student expressed her concerns regarding the break-ins in her neighborhood. She stated there were five break-ins in her neighborhood and she is terrorized and wanted to know what the police are doing about the break-ins. Interim Chief Bartlett addressed this question as a (three tier approach for the incidents.(Investigation, patrol, cover approach). Dealing with a new student population each year.
- Deanna Keller stated that she felt like there should be two community watches because the areas are so big (TRUNA) and Cypress Glen. Sgt. Friday stated that it would be good to collaborate with Belinda and Mr. Crisp since they had been down the road and could help forming a community watch. Ms. Keller announced that she was also a block captain.

- Citizen asked about suspicious vehicles in their neighborhood. Interim Chief Bartlett said to get a vehicle description and write down license plate number then call the police.
- One citizen commented that she had concerns regarding the lighting on her apt. outside and on the street where she lives. She stated that she had contacted P/W and her landlord. She is now waiting to hear back from them both.
- Mr. Winstead apologized to the students for all they had gone through, but he said overall the neighborhood is a good place to live. He has been living in the neighborhood for 33 years and had been a victim too. He has seen the area changed from single family dwellings to rental property. He informed the students they were on the right track by getting involved and working in their lighting problems. Mr. Winstead also asked the citizen to be in prayer and remember the officer who was killed while working in line of duty on Saturday.
- Citizen commented on The Daily Reflector printing “negative” news of shootings on the front page. He asked if meetings such as the PCRC be printed on the front page.

Sgt. Friday informed the citizens that the Greenville police department arrested over 5,000 people a year. That amount is enough to fill the Pitt Co. detention center 10 times. Sgt. Friday stated that it takes a community, a partnership, police dept. and the community working together through crime prevention. Sgt. Friday stated that it is a strategic battle of fighting crime. The police dept. is also working with kids through the PAL(Police Athletic League) program to try to help young kids come up with a mind set of citizenship, manners and what it means to live in a community. Sgt. Friday stated that cross spectrum and strategic battle of fighting crime and that is the purpose of why the police dept. holds meetings like the PCRC.

Sgt. Friday said in closing to all the citizens; if they have any concerns regarding crime in their neighborhood, please don't hesitate to call the police dept.

Public Expression and Questions.

The citizens asked several questions and made several comments.

- When to call Code Enforcement for violations.
- Keeping in mind the flip side of the coin with code violations between the tenant and landlord.

ADJOURN – 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Horne
Administration Bureau Secretary
Greenville Police Department
Document (#936232)