

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, February 9, 2012**

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**GNC Co-Chairperson Susan Taaffe** convened the February GNC meeting at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants and presentations by guest speakers.

**Guest speakers:**

**Kevin von der Lippe**, volunteer Board Member with **Crime Stoppers**, and **Rebecca Fallon, Greensboro Police Department Crime Stoppers Coordinator**, explained the origins, capabilities, and effectiveness of the Greensboro Guilford Crime Stoppers program in which members of the community, the media, law enforcement, and businesses work together to solve crimes. Crime Stoppers originated in 1976 in Albuquerque, NM to increase trust between their police and community and has grown to an international scope. Our local Crime Stoppers was instituted in 1981 by local Jaycee's and Walter Burch and Jack Zimmerman, requesting anonymous tips to catch a local murderer. Today our law enforcement officers (FBI, police, colleges, Jr. High and Sr. High school officers, Secret Service, and U.S. Marshall), our community, and local media jointly participate in Crime Stoppers efforts. Since 1981, over 28,000 local anonymous calls have resulted in over 11,500 arrests and recovery of over \$21.7 million in property and confiscated drugs. In the first two months of 2012, 72 **anonymous** tips have been received resulting in 68 arrests locally.

Anyone should call the Police at **911 during an emergency** or call Police at **373-2222 in a non-emergency** to report a crime. In addition, Crime Stoppers provides the opportunity to submit **anonymous tips about a crime** by calling **336-373-1000** (the same phone number held for 30 years!) or by visiting [www.ggcrimestop.org](http://www.ggcrimestop.org). All phone calls to Crime Stoppers are "blind", not tracked, facilitating anonymous tips with no fear of retaliation. Upon calling Crime Stoppers, the caller **anonymously** tells their information, receives no questions about their own identity, receives a unique incident number, and is invited to call back at a specific date and time to hear results. Detectives in all participating law enforcement agencies begin coordinated investigations. After the case is "worked", if the tip results in a successful arrest, then the tip caller receives another phone number to call with a second unique incident number and is told a dollar amount they may receive for the successful tip. The not-for-profit Crime Stoppers Board of Directors determines the dollar amount based on a chart of determined values up to \$2,000. The tip caller is invited to meet at a specific bank on a specific date and time to receive the award in a private room with at least two Crime Stoppers Board members present. The tip caller may cash the check at that bank, or may decline the money as many generously do, allowing those funds to be reused by Crime Stoppers.

Almost every successful Crime Stoppers tip leads to **multiple arrests, generating a domino effect** because many crimes of murder, burglary, and drugs are interrelated. Crime Stoppers saves taxpayer's money because anonymous tips help solve crimes more quickly with fewer law enforcement manpower hours. Crime Stoppers is **funded completely through private donations** and is in danger of running out of local funds. A typical year's payout is ~\$26,000 and in January \$10,250 already was scheduled for payout after highly successful arrests. Every local individual, neighborhood, and organization is encouraged to send donations of any size to keep local Crime Stoppers operating, increasing criminal cases closed at a lower public cost through totally **anonymous** tips. Crime Stoppers is a 501c3 organization and all contributions are tax deductible. Visit [www.ggcrimestop.org](http://www.ggcrimestop.org). Crime Stopper speakers are available for your organization by calling Rebecca Fallon at 336-574-4020.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership** - Peter Kauber distributed a page concisely reviewing GNC voting requirements and procedures. Discussion of GNC Bylaws voting privileges and representation was invited. All participants should **always sign in when attending GNC meetings** because that record of attendance determines your GNC voting privileges. Peter requests **each neighborhood complete and return to him your neighborhood's form** which provides your neighborhood organization's name, President/Captain/Director, contact phone, contact e-mail, and a list of all of your neighborhood's GNC voting delegates, their phone, and e-mail, signed and dated by your neighborhood's President/Captain/Director. This information needs to be updated to the GNC Membership Chairperson at least annually in order for your neighborhood to have voting privileges at GNC meetings. To obtain this form contact

Peter at 336-852-8791 or e-mail [pkauber@triad.rr.com](mailto:pkauber@triad.rr.com).

**Treasurer** – Jack Zimmerman reports the GNC has a total balance of \$599.74 as of January 31, 2012. Cindy Hayworth and Donna Newton volunteer to perform a GNC financial audit on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 p.m. Zimmerman also asks GNC members to ask our City to remove the city's *service charge* for *online* payment of monthly utility bills.

**Issues & Bylaws** – Michael Pendergraft reports this committee continues to pursue ways to reinstate the effectiveness of Greensboro's Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy (RUCO) rules. This committee also is discussing how the City could provide incentives for businesses to occupy underutilized or empty commercial property before rezoning residential property for commercial use. The hope is to reduce commercial infiltration into residential neighborhoods, a current example being proposed commercial rezoning near the intersection of Hobbs Road and Friendly Ave and nearby neighborhood opposition. Send any novel ideas for such efforts to Michael Pendergraft [mrp\\_mlp@bellsouth.net](mailto:mrp_mlp@bellsouth.net) or to Marsh Prause [marsh.prause@smithmoorelaw.com](mailto:marsh.prause@smithmoorelaw.com).

#### **Announcements:**

**Building Stronger Neighborhoods** grant requests are due 5:00 p.m. February 28, 2012. Contact Donna Newton at 202-4309 or [bdnewt@yahoo.com](mailto:bdnewt@yahoo.com) or visit [http://www.cfgg.org/receive/grant\\_stronger\\_neighborhoods](http://www.cfgg.org/receive/grant_stronger_neighborhoods) for details. Donald Blackstock shared examples of his neighborhood's use of BSN grant funds for purchasing neighborhood signs, for purchasing softball equipment for neighborhood youth play, for creating a community garden, and for creation of a large new playground.

City Councilman Jim Kee has given a donation to the local **Interactive Resource Center** (IRC) at 407 E. Washington Street in honor of the GNC. The IRC assists people who are homeless, recently homeless or facing homelessness to reconnect with their own lives and with the community at large. For information about the IRC visit <http://gsodaycenter.org/> or call (336) 332-0824.

**Our next GNC meeting is Saturday, March 10, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Central Public Library.**

**Please Note:** The **Thursday, April 12, 2012** GNC meeting will be held at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, 330 South Greene Street, NOT at the Central Public Library.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, February 10, 2012