

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Saturday, January 14, 2017



GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **January 2017** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest Speakers –

City of Greensboro Police Chief Wayne Scott and **Police Office of Community Engagement Manager Jenny Caviness** introduced on-going Police Department initiatives to engage our local community and enhance positive police-public relationships. Crimes rates rise when the economy goes down, or goes up, but rarely when economies are stagnant. The GPD has ~940 employees, ~697 sworn officers, and ~40 non-sworn officers performing crime scene investigations/forensics and office/administrative jobs. When you experience immediate concerns about suspicious activity or crimes in progress, **never hesitate to call the Police at 911 (emergency) or 336-370-0222 (non-emergency) or call your neighborhood's Police Community Resource Officer (CRO)**. Both numbers ring the same place. You'll immediately be asked if your call is an emergency or not.

Our City Police Department's "building bridges" handout highlights local police programs such as:

- **Procedural Justice** – police officers engage in departmental conversations about how we treat one another. Lead by a Guilford college professor of social justice, these intense conversations help overcome stereotypes.
- **Listening & Learning sessions** – 6 meetings with neighbors to communicate, share online crime stats, explain police training and recruitment, and encourage police/community volunteerism.
- **Operation Pass** – Police department facilitate a gathering of ~50 local non-profits, collecting and distributing free school supplies while educating about local services for those in need, attended by ~12,000 persons in 2016.
- **Citizen's Police Academy** – a multi-month weekly class for locals interested in learning about the skills practiced within our local police department. Includes training in decision-making, ethics, forensics, practice shooting, etc.
- **Community Classroom** – brief 2-hour sessions introducing you to the decision-making processes in which police are trained for best practices.
- **College Internship Programs** – students interested in our police department may apply.
- **Neighborhood Oriented Policing (NOP)** – All neighborhoods are encouraged to contact their Police Community Resource Officer (CRO) of which our city has 12. At your invitation CROs can present at neighborhood meetings, provide neighborhood crime statistics, etc. Find your neighborhood's CRO at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=3288>.
- **Coffee with a Cop** – Community Resource Officers (CROs) will meet at neighborhood coffee shops to answer questions, educate, and encourage neighborhood oriented policing (NOP).
- To engage your neighborhood in *any* of these proactive police services, please contact **Jenny Caviness at 336-373-2733** or jenny.caviness@greensboro-nc.gov.

- **Safer City Summit: Addressing Violent Crime – January 31, 2017, 6-8 p.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum** special events center, City police and local non-profit organizations together offer *free* educational sessions about the many local services that help reduce crime by proactivity. Learn the underlying issues that lead to violent crime. Discuss current local and national trends about violent crime. Join working groups that help police efforts to decrease violence. Learn to leverage local existing services (housing, health, recreation) that can proactively reduce underlying deficits that often lead to criminal behaviors. Register for this free event at this link.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safer-city-summit-addressing-violent-crime-tickets-30811547167>

Lastly, Police Chief Wayne Scott offered the answer to a question he’s commonly asked ... “*Yes, it **is** legal to drive while wearing flip-flops!*”

Committee Reports:

Treasurer -- Jack Zimmerman reports the GNC’s Municipal Credit Union accounts have end-of-December and end-of-year accounts containing \$2.97 checking, \$260.71 savings, for a total of \$263.68. A hat was passed for voluntary monthly contributions. All approved GNC purchases should be paid using the GNC credit card. Prior to GNC purchases contact Jack Zimmerman for the GNC credit card number.

Membership – Gerry Alfano reminds everyone to sign in at each GNC meeting and contact her at mtisdel@att.net to change any contact information for your GNC representatives.

GNC Elections – GNC annual election of officers will be held during our **Thursday, Feb 9, 2017 7-9 p.m.** meeting. Positions available for your volunteerism include Eastern Co-Chair, Secretary, Communications Chair, Finance Committee Chair, Membership Committee Chair, City Council District 2 Liaison, City Council District 4 Liaison.

Announcements:

- **Gerry Alfano** and **Ann Stringfield** attended a recent City Sign Ordinance meeting. Sign ordinances are complicated, are online at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4434>, and can be discussed with you by City Planning staff at 336-373-CITY or 336-373-2222. Most signs are not allowed on public property, including on the right-of-way and on the grass strip between the sidewalk and the street.
- **Michael Roberto** asked the GNC to allow a future presentation about a new organization, Democracy Greensboro, which aims to better educate citizens prior to City Council elections.
- **Ann Stringfield** reminds GNC members to send a horizontal format digital photo of your neighborhood sign which she can include on the GNC website. If your neighborhood does not have a sign, make a simple sign on cardboard, take a photo of neighbors holding it against a backdrop of your neighborhood, and e-mail it to Ann at InfoCrofters@triad.rr.com.
- **Jack Zimmerman** invites everyone to the **Crime Stoppers** fundraising pancake breakfast, March 25, 8-11 a.m. at Westover Presbyterian Church, 3906 West Friendly Avenue. \$8 adults. \$5 children.
- **Katina Armati** announced she’s a visitor from the Glenwood Neighborhood.

The next meeting of the GNC is **Thursday, February 9, 2017, 7-9 p.m.** at the **Central Public Library**.

Visit the GNC website at www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for information about the GNC and notes from previous monthly GNC meetings.

Respectfully submitted by **Ann Stringfield** of the **Fisher Park Neighborhood**, January 20, 2017.