

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)

Meeting Notes

Saturday, November 10, 2018



GNC Co-Chairperson **Linda Bennett** convened the **November 2018** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest Speakers:

Gene Blackmon, C.J. Brinson, and Sohnie Black introduced **Cure Violence**, an internationally recognized public health-based model of actions proven to reduce violence in any community. For example, communities actively practicing **Cure Violence** techniques have shown a 40-70% reduction in shootings! Just as medical professionals use effective medical practices to halt medical epidemics, **Cure Violence** recognizes that violence is a learned behavior, is contagious like epidemics, and can be greatly reduced and even cured in local violence “hot-spots”.

To implement the **Cure Violence** model, a community can identify local violence target areas and:

- 1) interrupt violence transmission**
- 2) identify and change thinking of the highest potential transmitters of violence (relatives, peers, etc.) and**
- 3) change group norms by providing holistic wrap-around services such as health services, counseling services, jobs, education, positive societal role-models, etc.**

Locally, we need neighbors of all races, ages, and economies, to learn about the **Cure Violence** model, then to encourage **City Council** (<https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/government/city-council/e-mail-city-council>) and County Commissioners, and others (Cone Health, YMCA’s, churches, schools, Public Health Departments, etc.) to financially support and practice the **Cure Violence** model.

Today’s GNC attendees passed a motion to ask our City Council and County Commissioners to provide resources necessary to support the **Cure Violence** model in our community. Learn more about **Cure Violence** through a 19-minute video at <https://binged.it/aATOPhm>. All GNC participants are asked to please **contact all of our City Councilpersons and County Commissioners** and ask them to provide resources to support the **Cure Violence** model in our community. (See the next page for e-mails of all our Councilpersons and Commissioners.)

Susan Taaffe lead a discussion about **Short-Term Rental (STR)** properties, often referred to as AirB&B rentals and Vacation Rentals By Owner (VRBO). Greensboro does not currently regulate **STR** facilities. Greensboro does regulate “Tourist Homes”, which are dwellings in which lodging with or without meals are provided for a fee for overnight guests. GNC attendees shared examples of the positives of STRs in any community (ranging from income generation for property owners and sales/use taxes paid to cities, convenience for tourists, positive regional promotion, etc.) to the concerns about STRs (ranging from neighbors not knowing who’s coming/going next door, to noise or safety issues, exterior signage, etc.) City of Greensboro legal staff and City Planning staff hope to address STR regulations in the distant future, but more urgent items are on their priority lists.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Betty Watson’s reports that GNC funds include \$674.78 in checking, \$261.96 in savings, for a total of \$936.74 as of October 31, 2018.

Membership: Gerry Alfano reminded participants to sign in at monthly meetings. There will be no GNC holiday dinner meeting this December.

Announcements:

- **December 7, 2018, 7:00 p.m.** Katina Amadi invites GNC members to a Holiday Show Extravaganza, Khalif Event Center, 2000 E. Wendover Ave. Advanced tickets \$15. 336-854-6206 <mailto:Kmamadi@hotmail.com>

Our next GNC meeting is **Thursday, January 10, 7-9 p.m., 2019** at the Greensboro Central Public Library, Nussbaum Room. The meeting topic will be Greensboro’s drinking water and two water contaminants of potential concern: perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

Visit www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for information about the GNC, where you can always read notes from previous GNC monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, November 13, 2018.

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If you wish to encourage our **City Council** and **County Commissioners** to support/fund the **Cure Violence** model, below are all of their e-mail contacts.

City of Greensboro **City Council** persons all can be e-mailed from one City web page.
<https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/government/city-council/e-mail-city-council>

Guilford County NC **County Commissioner’s** e-mail addresses easily can be copied and pasted into one e-mail.
abranson@guilfordcountync.gov
iconrad@guilfordcountync.gov
jphillips@guilfordcountync.gov
ccoleman@guilfordcountync.gov
kcashion@guilfordcountync.gov
cfooster@guilfordcountync.gov
hhenning@guilfordcountync.gov
aperdue@guilfordcountync.gov
Salston1@guilfordcountync.gov

All of the above e-mails also are available on the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress website’s [Resources for Neighborhoods](http://greensboroneighborhoodcongress.org/resources-for-neighborhoods/) page which is
<http://greensboroneighborhoodcongress.org/resources-for-neighborhoods/>