



Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission

2018-2019 Semi-Annual Report

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commission and Committee Members	2
Overview	3
Mission Statement	3
Vision	3
Roles and Responsibilities of the GCJAC	3
GCJAC Historical Overview	4
Meetings	5
Trainings	6
Community Outreach	7
Subcommittees	8
Police Community Review Board	8
Restraint/ Use of Force	8
Youth Outreach	8
Looking Ahead: Goals for FY 2019-2020	9

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Greensboro Mayor and City Council

MAYOR: Nancy Vaughan

Mayor Pro Tem: Yvonne Johnson

At-Large: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Michelle Kennedy

District One: Sharon Hightower

District Two: Goldie F. Wells

District Three: Justin Outling

District Four: Nancy Hoffmann

District Five: Tammi Thurm

City Manager: David Parrish

Assistant City Manager Office of Public Safety: Trey Davis

Criminal Justice Administrator: Latisha McNeil

Overview

The Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission (GCJAC), and its subcommittee, the Police Community Review Board (PCRB), operate as an autonomous entity providing education, advisory and oversight functions concerning criminal justice issues within the City. At the same time, they report on their work to, and are funded by, the City of Greensboro. The GCJAC and PCRB function as the result of State of NC Session Law 2018-105, authorizing disclosure of information regarding law enforcement in Greensboro's criminal justice system (primarily the GPD). Neither the Commission's funding, nor its management, overlap with GPD, i.e. no employee of the GCJAC is an employee of the GPD. The GCJAC is a City Commission nominated by its Executive Committee and including residents representing the demographic diversity and makeup of the five City Council districts. All members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

Mission

The Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission's mission is to review, monitor and study how Greensboro conducts law enforcement across the justice continuum. This includes assessing gaps, identifying challenges, and advocating for issues (e.g. through forums, seminars, workshops, studies, and reports) regarding law enforcement within the City, especially involving criminal justice policies affecting the public.

Vision

The vision of the GCJAC is to provide the community of Greensboro with an objective civilian body promoting better oversight of law enforcement practices in Greensboro. In so doing, the commission also intends to convey information to the residents about that oversight.

Roles/Responsibilities:

- Monitor/ review/ evaluate Criminal Justice data across City.
- Review Criminal Justice concerns throughout Greensboro and identify trends and systemic issues, as well as specific instances. in which law enforcement may not meet needs of the City.
- Provide recommendations to City and the GPD on how to address issues.
- Work with City / GPD on recommendations and community follow-up.
- Serve as a primary community education and outreach resource for criminal justice subjects.
- Prepare and provide semi-annual updates and annual report of findings.
- House the PCRB subcommittee to facilitate citizen review of police complaints and GPD disciplinary process determinations.

GCJAC Historical Overview

- ❖ June – July 2017: A city-wide HRC study showed almost unanimous dissatisfaction with PRCB by residents, complainants and police.
- ❖ July – Sept 2017: Stakeholders research other civilian oversight boards across the country and attend the NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) conference to gather information. Changes were recommended to City Council.
- ❖ April 2018: Framework is developed for the Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission.
- ❖ June 2018: General Assembly passes NC Session Law 2018-105, authorizing Greensboro to establish a reconstituted resident-managed body to collect data and review law enforcement decision-making.
- ❖ Aug 2018: A City Resoution establishes the Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission.
- ❖ September 2018: The GCJAC holds its first public meeting of newly appointed Commissioners.
- ❖ October 2018: GCJAC begins conducting community forums.
- ❖ January 2019: The City hires a GCJAC Administrator to support Commission organization and functions.
- ❖ June 2019: GCJAC holds a forum focused on the intersection of poverty and criminal justice.

Meetings

The Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission meets every 3rd Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted. These meeting are open to the public and have been attended by numerous members of the community.

	District	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	July
David Sevier	3	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P
Tom Phillips	3	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P	P	A	MC	P	P
Darrell "Jaye" Webb	1	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P
Steve Friedland	4	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P	P	P	MC	A	P
Michelle Gethers-Clark	3	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P	P	A	MC	A	P
Franca Jalloh	5	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P	P	P	MC	A	P
Suzanne Nazim	5	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P	P	P	MC	P	P

NOTE:

Executive Committee Meetings held monthly

- P** = Present **CT**= Completed Term
- A** =Absent **R**= Resigned
- MC** = Meeting Cancelled
- RM** = Removed

TRAINING

09/20/18	Welcome, including GPD Chief. Discussion of Bylaws, Legislation, Confidentiality
10/13/18	GPD Complaint Process Procedures
11/15/18	Constitutional Law - Arrest, Search & Seizure
02/21/19	Understanding Bias & Criminal Investigations Division Procedures
03/21/19	GPD Internal Procedures, including Body Worn Camera
05/09/18	Police Training Simulator Demo (session 1)
05/29/19	Police Training Simulator Demo (Session 2)

- Training videos of the above sessions are being created to ensure that as the Commission continues to onboard new members, they have access to training sessions at their convenience. The training videos will also be uploaded to the City's GCJAC website in order for new commissioners and residents review as needed.
- Commissioners are additionally able to participate in police vehicle ride-alongs and a majority of members have done so.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- ❖ 10-20-2018: The GCJAC presented a community forum at HQ Greensboro, entitled, “Know Your Rights: Understanding the 4th and 5th Amendments.” The forum, conducted by Commissioner Steve Friedland, offered an interactive opportunity for the community to learn some Constitutional Law and how it applies to law enforcement interactions with the public.
- ❖ 03-07-2019 -The GCJAC hosted another community forum at the Elon School of Law. The forum was essentially provided Phase II of the October 20, 2018 forum.
- ❖ GCJAC conducted a third forum on June 26, 2019, at Barber Park Event Center entitled “Poverty and the Criminal Justice System.” This forum addressed the intersection of poverty and criminal justice and how many aspects of the criminal justice system can continue the cycle of generational poverty. The forum was facilitated by Michelle Gethers-Clark, CEO United Way Greensboro, & Steve Friedland, Senior Scholar and Professor at the Elon Law School.



Commissioner Friedland addressing points at HQ Greensboro

SUBCOMMITTEES

Police Community Review Board (PCRB)

During FY 2018-19, the PCRB received two requests for review of disposition from complainants who were not satisfied with reviews conducted by the Professional Standards Division of the Greensboro Police Department.

Date Complaint Received	PCRB Review	Outcome
10/29/18	04/16/19	Sustained
4/11/19		Withdrawn
07/18/19	08/07/19	Sustained
07/24/19	09/10/19	Sustained
10/25/19	12/03/19	Sustained

All complaints against police officers are first investigated by the police department's Professional Standards Division. If individuals do not agree with the Division's outcome, they are offered an option to have their complaints presented to a certified City-contracted mediator. If they do not choose that option, they are eligible to refer their complaint to the Police Community Review Board (PCRB). The purpose of the PCRB is to determine whether GPD officers conducted themselves according to established Greensboro Police Department (GPD) directives. The (PCRB) does not conduct investigations but does review how the police department handles complaints and how opinions based upon that review are managed. The PCRB will not make administrative determinations or recommendations regarding individual personnel matters of sworn members of the GPD. The PCRB's goal is to provide positive advisory determinations and/or recommendations of how residents are treated in interactions with officers and how that can improve in the future.

Restraint/ Use of Force Committee

During the January GCJAC meeting, GPD Chief Scott approached the Commission to request assistance with a Restraint Study Taskforce. The group was requested to assist in looking at restraint devices being used nationally and internationally by police officers for transporting persons who are uncooperative or uncontrolled. The Taskforce released its findings along with GPD participants. The GCJAC Restraint Review subcommittee released a separate letter



detailing its report. The GCJAC decided to expand the restraint subcommittee to look at all Use of Force issues. The subcommittee will continue to review Use of Force policies of the GPD and other law enforcement agencies. They plan to look at policing policies as they pertain to dealing with individuals dealing with mental health and/or medical emergencies.

Youth Outreach

The GCJAC is also interested in working among students in Guilford County Schools to address the concerns of young people when interacting with law enforcement. The Youth Subcommittee is interested in engaging unique platforms to interact with young people. They are also looking to develop handouts that help young people understand their rights and give them a way to effectively address relevant concerns.

Looking Ahead: Goals for FY 2019-2020

- ❖ Engage youth and gather input from Guilford County Schools about young people and law enforcement.
- ❖ Create a pamphlet that helps residents to understand their rights.
- ❖ Continue to engage diverse demographics to ensure that “ALL” sections of Greensboro are heard.
- ❖ Continue to expose GCJAC to the community at large by enhancing media presence.
- ❖ Develop GCJAC/ PCRB brochures to educate the public about the board.
- ❖ Host community forums to educate the public on topics related to the criminal justice system.
- ❖ Reach out to Guilford County public defender’s office and the District attorney’s office with community concerns regarding criminal justice.
- ❖ GCJAC will produce reports on trends in policing and offer community driven suggestions on police reform.

