

Public Safety Task Force Meeting Notes

Task Force Meeting: May 9, 2006
Michelin N.A.

Attendees: Chief Reynolds, Bruce Cannon, Carol Reeves, Russell Stall, Brock Koonce

- Who else should be at the table? We are having a tough time with attendance at our meetings, and we need to get the Task Force more engaged. We need at least half of the current Task Force members present.
- A dream of the Task Forces is to find the current problems, and develop solutions and identify the people that can make it happen.

We have to create our own authority to do that. (the authority lies with the people at the table.)

- When we talk about specific subjects, we need data to review. This will help us avoid developing programs/solutions based on pure gut feeling. The data will help us clearly define the issues facing us.
- Some cases/solutions may be the result of a seed that is planted in the Task Force, and someone else implements it.
- Is Greenville Forward communicating with the specific Government entities about what we are out here doing?

Currently, we are not. GF wanted all Task Forces up and running before beginning to inform general public about happenings.

Standard Meeting Dates:

Second Tuesday of Each Month, 3:00PM

- June 13th
- July 11th
- Aug. 8th
- Sept. 12th
- Oct. 10th
- Nov. 14th
- Dec. 12th

What about a survey sent to Task Force that asks them about specific information we deal with. Give them with some buy-in so they feel a sense of responsibility.

National Institute of Justice – Gangs Study.

Next Meeting:

Craig Garnder – City Rep. for Gang Task Force to speak at next meeting.

Bruce to call Craig to see if he will make presentation on Gangs. Then, probe him on what we can do to assist the future.

Greenville Forward needs to connect more dots in the community and help create awareness among citizens about issues. I.e. Gangs.

Public Safety Task Force Meeting Notes

Task Force Meeting: April 24, 2006

4:30pm – Michelin

Attendees: Bruce Cannon, Carol Reeves, Steven Bryant, Russell Stall, Brock Koonce

- We don't want to use this Task Force for any of the local entities to use to further their political agendas.

Bruce: "Before we get into the nuts and bolts, we need to craft a Vision for Public Safety. What we currently have is not a vision. "

How do we do that in a way that everyone knows that we are sincere, rather than thinking this is some sort of PR spin?

VISION:

"Make Greenville the safest community in the Southeast."

Want to see something that reflects the change that we know is coming. Also, reflects the changing demographic that we know is coming.

How do you build Greenville to attract business while maintaining the safety aspect and increasing it?
How does the socio-economic landscape change? Ties into how susceptible people are to joining gangs, committing violent crime, etc...

MISSION STATEMENT:

"To grow and sustain a safe & thriving community that works collaboratively with all peoples and cultures, employing progressive strategies aimed at significantly impacting crime & safety."

New mission to go on website ASAP.

Bureau of Tobacco, Alcohol and Firearms has just released a Task Force on Gangs.

Solve Core Issues to Address:

Issues

- Traffic
- Substance Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Gangs

Tactics

- Awareness
- Education
- Prevention
- Intervention
- Enforcement
- Enhance Quality of Life

Next Meeting, May 9th. 3:30. Michelin.

Public Safety Task Force Meeting Notes

Task Force Meeting: March 27, 2006
Michelin N.A.

Attendance: Bruce Cannon, Dan Reynolds, Terrance Brooks, Carol Reeves, Russell Stall, Brock Koonce

Possibly add someone from Magistrate's office, School District, Solicitor's Office (check on how they foresee their docket over the next couple of years).

Others:

Solicitor's Office

Howard Steinberg

Magistrate's Office

Leela Foster (SW Greenville) has experience in Detention

Hispanic Community Representative

Some of these people could serve as Ad Hoc members. No commitment, you don't have to come to every meeting, etc. If you choose to come, then fine.

Vision Statement:

Not extremely measure-able but underneath that, come up with tactics that achieve the vision.

A thriving community with services and organizations in place to address and solve the issues that face Public Safety in the Greenville Community

Creating a more efficient way of dealing with these issues.

Victimization of Homelessness

Terrance brought up a point that Hispanic community is in danger due to the fact they carry large amounts of cash. They don't use banks. They wire money back home. They are an open target to be victims of violent crimes.

Things we can mitigate under Public Safety

4 Core Areas that affect Safety

Teir One – Core Issues

1. Drug Abuse
2. Traffic
3. Domestic Violence (lead country in domestic violence)
4. Gangs

These are the 4 issues we should deal with. All the rest will fall into place if these are addressed.

VISION

"Make Greenville the safest metropolitan area in the Southeast."

It would hard to benchmark against NY or Chicago. We limit to the Southeast.

Subset's to issues.

Alternative Sentencing

Education

Judicial System

The biggest problem with the drug problem is defining it. How many people are using? What are they using?

Develop a program to monitor drug use through the hospital system. Currently, there is a law that keeps hospitals in SC from alcohol or drug records for patients. If they report, the insurance companies won't pay them.

Greenville County Safe Communities – Traffic Fatality Report

Is this a goal to publish this report somewhere? Haven't tried it before. Why not? Is there a negative associated with it?

4 out of 10 Traffic Fatalities are DUI. Why don't we know this statistic? Why is this information not getting out?

Carol to provide information / histories/ etc. to GF.

Do we prioritize these 4 issues? Where do we go next?

Russell – attack them at the same time. Ranking them in danger categories:

1. Traffic (drugs become a subset)
2. Domestic Violence
3. Drugs/Alcohol
4. Gangs

"A thriving community supporting a progressive multi-strategy system which works collaboratively with all cultures to keep Greenville County safe and ..."

"The safest region in the Southeast offering a good quality of life for all..."

April 13th Coalition Meeting.

Next meeting discussion is on traffic. Everyone to pull statistics by area, code, how many alcohol outlets there are. Look at indicators. Highest wreck roads (anything DUI or drug related).

Next Meeting, 4/25 @ Michelin.

Public Safety Task Force Kick off Meeting Notes

Task Force Meeting: March 9th, 2006
4:30pm – Michelin

Last Meeting: August 2003

Attendees: Terrance Brooks, Dan Reynolds, Carol Reeves, Mike Gambrell, Bruce Cannon, Russell Stall, Brock Koonce

Objective may be to create a vision statement relating to the current state of public safety in Greenville County and issues which we must prepare to address in the near and distant future. This vision must include law enforcement and the judicial system. However, it should not be limited to these areas. It may also include areas which have a potential impact on the public safety, i.e. drug and alcohol abuse, population growth (traffic), technology, and mental health services.

- Bruce still working on getting someone from the Magistrate's office, and one from the school district.
- Run down from Russell about the state of the Vision since last PS meeting in August 2003. Greenville Forward is the process of getting all Task Forces re-engaged.
- Originally the Task Forces were given the charge of measuring the progress. This has changed. Greenville Forward is now engaged and will measure, and the
- The goal for this meeting is to look at the Vision and find the holes and figure out where we can fill it.
- Bruce mentioned that what is in the Vision was already known. We knew what was going to happen, and we put it down. There really wasn't a "Vision". The members of the original task force weren't necessarily the best for that time. (Highway Patrol wasn't originally involved, etc.)
- Drugs were never mentioned in the Vision. What are we doing about homelessness? While they aren't public safety, the impact public safety.
- List of Issues:
 - Homelessness
 - Alternative Sentencing
 - Traffic
 - Drugs
 - Judicial System
 - Education (quality, graduation, are they ready to enter marketplace or create crime)
 - Mental Health
 - Population (breeds more traffic problem)
 - Hispanic Population Boom (victims of crimes, language barrier, fear factor, drivers license)
 - Technology (judicial process, video streaming for bond hearing, Law Enforcement Technology, Communicate better, transfer information better)
 - Jurisdictional Issues (look at Greer. They deal with Spartanburg and Greenville – Chief Reynolds)
- Where are we now?
Where do we want to be 5 years from now?
How do we get there?

- Where are we now?
HOMELESSNESS: It's a problem for the City. It is increasing. Sleeping in abandoned buildings, becoming drug dens. People who are homeless who are mentally ill or circumstance. Vogue rehab won't accept someone without a permanent address.
 There are so many programs that have been cut over the last five years that have dealt with mental illness. How many people in the detention center have mental illness? Have drug issues?(80%) (alcohol is the worst.)
 Something should be on-site to treat these people, rather than off. They need to get clean in the detention center, because when they leave they can't stay clean.
- **ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING**
 Overcrowding. They aren't getting the right treatment per individual. Probation for those that shouldn't get it. If they don't fit somewhere, we are making them fit. We are diluting it. It should be the right people going to the right alternative place, but it's not.
- **DRUGS**
 Introduction of Meth. Drug use has changed drastically, and has changed the way everyone is doing everything over the last 5 years. Illegal use of prescription drugs, meth amphetamines.
 Illicit drugs
 Over the counter drugs
 Mixing all the drugs. Across all socio-economic standards.
 DWIA: Driving While Intoxicated Ambian (affects memory)
 Working more in intrinsic policy implementation. How dollars are going to be set. Budgets and accountability.
 Look at policies, laws and standards (state)
 Media's impact on culture. It guides culture in a sense. We've relaxed our standards.
 Ohio is doing a good job of getting things done. Moving away from Single State Agencies. Looking at how things are funded holistically.
- **TRAFFIC**
 You can't tell what construction projects have stopped and what's begun. Greenville is #1 Traffic death, DUI Death, and Traffic Injuries in State of SC.
- **JUDICIAL SYSTEM**
 Some judges are strong, but Magistrates not necessarily the case. Magistrate system only requires an Associates Degree, and High School Education. A Police Officer can go and become a Magistrate. A Convenience Store clerk can become a Magistrate (scary). Standards for Magistrates should be brought up. Bruce to send Standards for Magistrates.
- **EDUCATION**
 Drop out rate still very high. More tech? The people getting the jobs are coming from outside Greenville. Those that enter 8th grade in Greenville and graduate HS on time is 50%. We are losing them in 9th grade. Somehow.
- **GANGS**
 With drugs and guns, groups/gangs level of violence has increased. Kids join gangs in 8th or 9th grade to gain some form of identity. Unconditional love and acceptance from their fears. It's also fear.
 MS13 – International gang
 D25's – Greenville gang
 Sheriff's office and Police Department that have dedicated Gang Investigators. ATF will oversee it and those two officers will be housed at ATF.

NEXT MEETING: March 27th 3:30 @ Michelin.