

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Saturday, July 13, 2013**

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**GNC Co-Chairperson Susan Taaffe** convened the **July 2013** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants and presentations by guest speakers.

**Guest speakers:**

City of Greensboro Police Officer **T.J. Bloch** shared his new **Law Enforcement Against Abuse of Prescription Drugs (L.E.A.P.)** training program to raise awareness of our local and nationwide **epidemic of prescription pain medicine abuse**. Bloch explained that prescription drugs such as Oxycodon, Hydrocodone, Opana, and Tramadol are highly addictive, low cost, easily accessible, abused by persons of all ages/status, are legally and illegally obtained, overdoses of which have now surpassed death by motor vehicle accidents. Over \$72 billion/year already is expended on this epidemic as crimes to illegally obtain prescription drugs include burglaries, shoplifting, robberies, fraud, violence, and larceny. While there has been a marked decrease in the use of some illegal drugs like cocaine, nearly one-third of people aged 12 and over who used drugs for the first time began their addiction by using a prescription drug non-medically. Over 70 percent of people who abused prescription pain relievers received them illegally from friends or relatives. Four major efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse include: **education** (especially parents and youth), **tracking and monitoring** pain medicine prescriptions, **proper disposal** of unused pain medicines, and law enforcement against illegal prescribing and dispensing of prescription pain medicines. Our Greensboro Police Department seeks funds to purchase 4 secure boxes into which citizens can safely deposit unused prescription drugs. Please **never** dispose of any pharmaceuticals down drains or in garbage or by sharing, all of which have serious negative consequences. When you are aware of a prescription drug misuse, please notify Police at 911 or 373-2222, educate your family/friends/community, and partner to fight crime. For more information or to request this presentation for other groups, contact Police Officer T.J. Block at [t.j.bloch@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:t.j.bloch@greensboro-nc.gov).

**Committee Reports:**

**Issues & Bylaws – Mike Pendergraft** thoroughly reviewed the proposed rental housing ordinance anticipated to be adopted by City Council on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made and approved for GNC support of this proposed ordinance. Thanks were expressed to attending Councilpersons Abuzuater and Hoffman and to GNC member Michael Pendergraft for months of word-crafting and meetings toward this ordinance which required significant compromise and updating after the previous RUCO ordinance was struck down by our NC Legislature in 2012.

**Membership – Peter Kauber** continues to encourage monthly meeting sign-in and updated membership information. [pkauber@triad.rr.com](mailto:pkauber@triad.rr.com)

**Announcements –**

- Long time GNC member **Zack Browning** passed away June 29, 2013 at Beacon Place hospice facility.
- Ann Stringfield created a new **GNC website** with simplified website management via the Internet. GNC members are encouraged to e-mail Ann at [infocrofters@triad.rr.com](mailto:infocrofters@triad.rr.com) and provide one representative .jpg photo of your neighborhood, which she may then use on the website.
- The **League of Women Voters** invites new members to meet August 7, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Hampshire Apartments Conference Room, 1101 North Elm Street.
- Our September 14 GNC meeting will be our **GNC 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration**.
- July 20, 2013, 9:00 a.m. is a **Walk Against Drugs & Violence**. Contact Pastor Deborah White at 336-541-3731 or [reginaldcenterofturnaround.org@gmail.com](mailto:reginaldcenterofturnaround.org@gmail.com). There is a \$25 registration fee and entertainment and food.
- Next GNC meeting is **Thursday, August 8, 7-9 p.m. at the Central Greensboro Public Library**.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, July 21, 2013.