

# Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)

## Meeting Notes

### Saturday, November 11, 2017

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GNC Co-Chairperson **Linda Bennett** convened the **November 2017** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

#### Guest speakers:

**Officer James E. Henson, Deputy Chief in the City of Greensboro Police Department**, presented an overview of police statistics in 2017 and offered tips to increase citizen's security. Local crime statistics indicate that while Greensboro is a relatively safe city, like the rest of our country we continue to experience crimes -- homicides, gang-related activities, robberies, larcenies, etc.

Thus far in 2017, crimes recorded in our city include 38 homicides, over 1,240 burglaries, over 2,300 car larcenies, over 570 robberies, over 421 car thefts, and 309 drug overdoses. Gang-related crimes often are committed by young persons seeking a sense of belonging, unfortunately drawn into harsh gang initiations and later required to expand illegal drug-related income.

Henson recommends always removing valuables from and locking your cars, garages, windows and doors, increasing personal awareness of your surroundings, carrying a whistle on your keychain and using it when inappropriately approached. When out of town, inform trusted neighbors and stop or arrange pickup of mail and newspapers, close window coverings, and install several light timers.

During upcoming holidays, major shopping areas will receive increased police surveillance on foot, bikes, and Segways. Our police department recently offered installation of new deadbolt locks on recently burgled homes. Never hesitate to call City Police at **911** and anticipate *Priority One* response in 7 minutes or less. Your Police Community Resource Officer offers public "*State of the District*" meetings. Henson's final advice is "*The best defense is a strong offence*" and "*We all are stronger when working together!*"

Learn more about our Police Department at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=1045>

**Dr. Sharon Contreras, PhD, Superintendent of Guilford County Schools**, educated us about our county schools standings, accomplishments, and concerns. With over 73,000 K-12 students, the Guilford County Schools system is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest employer in our county and is one of the largest school systems -- 47<sup>th</sup> in size nationwide! Unfortunately, NC teacher's salaries are among the lowest nationwide -- 41<sup>st</sup> of 50 -- and our principal's salaries are the lowest -- 50<sup>th</sup> of 50. Scholastic underperformance continues among racial/ethnic groups, the economically disadvantaged, limited English speakers, students with disabilities and exceptional children.

Current goals for improvement include increasing teacher's professional training and an emphasis on teaching science/technology/math/manufacturing skills -- all necessary to serve an effective workforce and a growing economy. Middle school children participate in a "*Kindness Challenge*", practicing listening skills and civil discourse. Guilford County Schools are networking with other local educational systems so that school's purchasing power, transportation systems, and service contracts together offer greater opportunities for price negotiations and increased cost efficiencies.

The [Guilford County Education Alliance](#) Teacher Supply Warehouse collects free classroom materials for teachers. [Guilford Parent Academy](#) offers help to parents seeking to increase success for their children. Students have access to [Engage New York](#) which provides online and live tutors for teaching Common Core language arts and mathematics materials. And the [Kahn Academy](#) offers instructional assistance for students, teachers, and parents.

Excellent educational systems generate the highest Return on Investment (ROI) within any community.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer** – Jack Zimmerman reported the GNC has \$470.32 in the checking account and \$261.27 in the savings account as of October 31, 2017.

**Membership** – All GNC participants are reminded to sign in at each GNC meeting, indicating your attendance and updating your contact information.

### **Announcements:**

- May 18-20, 2018 Greensboro will host the Greensboro Literary Festival featuring multiple venues and over 50 authors. Visit <http://www.GreensboroBound.com>
- Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood requests contact by anyone interested in developing walking tours of Maplewood Cemetery. Contact [InfoCrofters@triad.rr.com](mailto:InfoCrofters@triad.rr.com).
- The next GNC meeting is **Thursday, December 14, 2017, 6:30 p.m.** at the College Park Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1601 Walker Ave.
- All neighborhoods and all neighbors are invited to all GNC monthly meetings.

Visit [www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org](http://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 11, 2017.