

**Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)**  
**Monthly Newsletter for the Durham Community**  
**January 2009**

**Monthly Gun Law: Firearms with Altered Serial Numbers**

North Carolina law prohibits the possession, sale, or transfer of firearms with altered serial numbers. Statute 14-160.1 states the following:

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to alter, deface, destroy or remove the permanent serial number, manufacturer's identification plate or other permanent, distinguishing number or identification mark from any item of personal property with the intent thereby to conceal or misrepresent the identity of said item.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to sell, buy or be in possession of any item of personal property, not his own, on which the permanent serial number, manufacturer's identification plate or other permanent, distinguishing number or identification mark has been altered, defaced, destroyed or removed for the purpose of concealing or misrepresenting the identity of said item.

A violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Spotlight Initiative: Community Awareness and Outreach**

An integral part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods strategy is providing community awareness throughout Durham County. Activities to do this include:

- Producing and distributing literature for residents
- Sponsoring local workshops
- Producing and distributing public service announcements (PSAs)
- Producing and distributing billboard advertisements
- Producing and distributing press releases

In an effort to educate and mobilize our community, Project Safe Neighborhoods participates in:

- Community Events                      National Night Out (an annual nation-wide event each August)
- Youth Programs                         Church Programs
- Employee Wellness Fairs              Business Groups

The number of outreach activities by Project Safe Neighborhoods staff increased 300% in 2008. Let us know how we can support your community!

### **ONE SIMPLE THING YOU CAN DO to Prevent Gun Violence in Your Community**

Educate yourself with information related to gun violence such as the following data provided by North Carolinians Against Gun Violence ([www.ncgv.org](http://www.ncgv.org)):

- Guns kill more than 1,000 North Carolinians every year
- Approximately one North Carolina child is killed by a gun every week
- A UNC Study found that 43% of North Carolina's gun owners with small children leave their weapon unlocked
- Our state is the 5th leading source for handguns used in crimes nationwide

### **Pointers for Parent: Signs of Gang Involvement**

Skipping school or missing work often

Sudden negative change in school performance

No longer associates with old friends

Associates with new friends that parents don't know

Expresses a preference for one color, or avoids certain colors

Graffiti on papers, walls, sheets

Shows a strong disrespect for authority

Alcohol or drug abuse

Shows unusual moods or patterns of behavior

Marks personal property with specific codes or symbols

Displays unexplained wealth, jewelry and clothing

Speaks of needing protection and carries a weapon

Displays unexplained bruises, cuts, brands or tattoos

Unusual desire for privacy, time away from family. Refuses to take part in family activities.

*Do you need help with an organization or community presentation regarding gun crime and violence? Call the Project Safe Neighborhoods Office at 560-4335 x243.*