

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

Monthly Gun Law: Storage of Firearms to Protect Minors

North Carolina General Statute 14-315.1 states that any person who resides in the same premises as a minor (individual under the age of 18 years), owns or possesses a firearm, and stores or leaves the firearm (i) in a condition that the firearm can be discharged and (ii) in a manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to gain access to the firearm, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if a minor gains access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parents or a person having charge of the minor and the minor:

- (1) possesses it in violation of G.S. 14-269.2(b);
- (2) exhibits it in a public place in a careless, angry, or threatening manner;
- (3) causes personal injury or death with it not in self defense; or
- (4) uses it in the commission of a crime.

This section shall not apply if the minor obtained the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry by any person.

PSN Partner Spotlight: The Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham

The mission of the Religious Coalition is to bear witness to the sanctity of life and to act to prevent and rectify the injustice of violence.

Their activities include prayer vigils following homicides, Reconciliation and Re-entry Ministry, monthly luncheons, Hands Without Guns activities, and numerous other educational and supportive programs in an effort to inform and network the community.

The Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham is a highly respected program and the Project Safe Neighborhoods staff is fortunate to have enjoyed a long-time partnership with them.

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

Keep Children Actively Engaged in Positive Activities

Studies have directly examined the relationship between participation in specific extracurricular activities and violent activity by youth. Eccles and Barber (1999) found that adolescents who were involved in pro-social activities had the most consistently positive outcomes, which were high academic achievement and low rates of involvement in risky behaviors. Stevens and Peltier

(1994) reported that extracurricular activities could aid in helping youth stay away from risky behaviors such as drug abuse, gang involvement, and destructive activities.

Effective family communication and encouraging children to participate in extra-curricular activities will support community safety efforts.

Pointers for Parent: Why Kids Join Gangs

Gangs can provide a sense of security, structure, belonging, and discipline that might be missing at home.

The gang appears loyal when others are not.

Gangs offer a powerful sense of identity.

If there are rival gangs in an area, joining one of them may offer protection from the others.

Gang activity may seem attractive to kids who are bored, lack outside interests and direction, or have low self esteem.

PSN In Your Neighborhood:

Health Fair at Brogden Middle School – February 12

McMannon Methodist Church Senior Adults Program – February 13

Partners Against Crime (District 3) – February 14

Vigil Against Violence – February 19

Adult-Youth Forum - February 20

PSN Community Response Training – February 26

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.