

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

Gun Laws

Possession of Firearm with Altered Serial Number

If you are in possession of a firearm with an altered serial number, you are guilty of Class 1 misdemeanor. The maximum punishment of a Class 1 misdemeanor is more than six months imprisonment

Disposal of a Firearm

If you want to dispose of a firearm, it is suggested that you call your local police station or sheriff's office and request an officer to pick it up. You can also go directly to the police station or sheriff's office and drop the firearm there.

Reporting a Missing or Stolen Firearm

Though North Carolina doesn't require gun owners or gun dealers to report missing or stolen firearms, it is strongly recommended that they do so. Contact your nearest law enforcement office immediately if your firearm is lost or stolen.

PSN Partners Spotlight: Gang Outreach

Durham is extremely fortunate to have a variety of gang outreach programs in our city. Initiatives targeting youth gangs are currently being coordinated by Project BUILD, Durham Parks and Recreation, the Salvation Army, Project Safe Neighborhoods, North Carolina Child Response Initiative, and the John Avery Boys and Girls Club.

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

How safe do you want your neighborhood to be? This seems like a silly question, doesn't it?

Of course, we all want our community to be the safest one in the city! But how far are you willing to go to make our collective vision a reality?

Recognize the power you have as a citizen and take a stand against gun crime and violence. You can do this by:

1. reporting individuals you see carrying firearms
2. writing down automobile tag numbers when you witness their involvement in drive-by shootings, drug trade, or other illegal activities
3. calling Project Safe Neighborhoods if you suspect your child is involved in a youth gang

We must let our neighbors and other Durham residents know that it's not okay to engage in criminal activity in our streets. If we turn away from what is taking place, police officers may not have the critical information they need to combat the problem. You will virtually be held hostage in your home and the situation may not change.

Reporting documentable incidents to the police is not "snitching"; it is ensuring the safety of your family, friends, and neighbors.

Pointers for Parents: Five Things to Teach Children

1. Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons. Don't stand around and form an audience when others are arguing.
2. Learn safe routes for walking in the neighborhood, and know good places to seek help. Know how to contact your parents in the event of an emergency.
3. Learn to work out your problems without fighting. If you're feeling angry toward someone, talk it out, walk away, stick with friends, or speak with a trusted adult. Try to think of some new ways to settle your problems without violence.
4. If you find a gun – stop, don't touch the gun, get away, and tell a grown-up you trust.
5. Report any crimes or suspicious activities to police, school authorities, and parents.

PSN In Your Neighborhood:

July 1: Fun in the Sun Camp

July 7: Wellons Village

July 11: Southside Community Day

July 13: Eastway Village

July 16: Gang Awareness Workshop for Parents (Eastway Elementary)

Do you need help with an organization or community presentation regarding gun crime and violence? Call the Project Safe Neighborhoods Office at 560-4438 x29230.