

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)
Monthly Newsletter for the Durham Community
September 2008

Monthly Gun Law

If you fit into one of these categories, you are prohibited from possessing any kind of gun or ammunition:

- Convicted felon
- Fugitive from justice
- Drug users or addicts
- Persons adjudicated mentally incompetent or committed to mental institutions
- Aliens in the U.S. illegally or on temporary status
- People who have been dishonorably discharged from the armed service
- People involved in committing domestic violence

If you meet any of these categories, simply possessing a gun, a bullet, or even a shell casing can get you five years in prison.

Spotlight Initiative: A Community Response

The Community Response to Violent Acts is a strategy utilized for violent incidents or any crimes likely to have a retaliation effect among those involved. The Response consists of a door-to-door canvassing of the neighborhood(s) where the crime occurred, the victim(s) live(d), and/or the suspect/arrestee lives(d). Conducted by the Durham Police Department, partnering agencies and organizations, clergy, and concerned citizens, the canvass is designed to have a four-fold effect:

- a. To develop investigative leads in the case;
- b. To provide information to the community about the violent act and to reassure them that law enforcement is doing everything it can to solve the case and protect the citizens;
- c. To support the involved community in its efforts to recover from the violent act;
- d. To visibly demonstrate the Project Safe Neighborhoods partnership by having law enforcement and community representatives conducting the Response.

Partners are notified via e-mail of the time, date, location, and reason for a Response when one has been scheduled. Participants convene at the Response site, where the Response coordinator conducts a short briefing and responders sign in. Participants are divided into teams; each team consisting of both community members and law enforcement officers. The teams disperse to assigned sections of the neighborhood, handing out flyers door-to-door and talking with residents about the violent incident that precipitated the response, as well as any other concerns the residents may have. When the canvass is complete, responders reconvene,

participate in a short debriefing if necessary, and sign out. Most responses last no more than one hour.

ONE SIMPLE THING You Can Do to Prevent Gun Violence in Your Community

Get to know local police officers in order to feel comfortable reporting situations that concern you.

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.

PSN in Your Neighborhood

September 9: Lincoln Community Health Center
September 13: WI Patterson Center and Bethel Baptist Church
September 30: NCCU Employee Wellness Fair

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.