

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

**Monthly Gun Law: Transfer of Firearms**

Under North Carolina law, it is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to sell, give away, transfer, purchase, or receive, at any place in the state, any pistol, unless the purchaser or receiver has first obtained a license or permit to receive such a pistol by the sheriff of the county where the purchaser or receiver resides. This requirement to obtain a permit prior to the transfer of a pistol applies not only to a commercial transaction, typically at a sporting goods store, but also between private individuals or companies throughout North Carolina. NC Gen. Stat. § 14-402(a)

In addition, this State law has been interpreted to require that a pistol permit be obtained by the receiver of a handgun when such person inherits a pistol as a result of the death of another person. The permit should be given to and retained by the seller or donor of the handgun. In such a case, the permit should be given to the executor or receiver of the estate of the deceased person.

Further, it is unlawful for any person to receive from any postmaster, postal clerk, employee in the parcel post department, rural mail carrier, express agent or employee, or railroad agent or employee, within the State of North Carolina, any pistol without having in his or her possession, such a pistol purchase permit.

A violation of this pistol permit law is a Class 2 Misdemeanor under North Carolina law.

**Spotlight Initiative: Strategies To Abate and Reduce Senseless Violence (S.T.A.R.S.)**

Through the S.T.A.R.S. program, repeat offenders who have histories of using or carrying firearms are brought in for notification sessions. During the sessions, law enforcement representatives, community leaders, and citizens meet face-to-face with the offenders and tell them to:

- Put down the gun
- Stop committing violent crimes or face federal prosecution
- Accept help from community resources if you are willing to change

Offenders are offered resources and assistance from the community. This may include offers of job training or other forms of support. The S.T.A.R.S. case manager works directly with notified offenders. Offenders who decide not to change their lifestyles are subject to close monitoring by law enforcement and Community Corrections. This strategy leads to the aggressive incarceration of those who do not take the opportunity to turn from gun crime.

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

Ask if there are guns in the homes where your children play. 40% of homes with children in America have guns, many unlocked or loaded. Every year thousands of children are killed or seriously injured as a result.

If there are any doubts about the safety of another home, invite the kids to your house instead. For more information, go to [askingsaveskids.org](http://askingsaveskids.org).

### **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**

November 8: Chik-Fil-A Law Enforcement Day

November 11: Durham Youth Summit

November 14: Durham Crime Cabinet

*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.*