

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

**Possession of a Stolen Firearm** (N.C.G. S. 14-71.1, 14-72)

It is against the law to possess a stolen firearm if you knew or had reasonable grounds to believe it was stolen. This crime is a Class H felony.

Individuals who have the highest possible prior record level face thirty (30) months of incarceration for committing Class H felonies.

*Pocket-size cards detailing many North Carolina firearm statutes are available to the public by Project Safe Neighborhoods. Please call 560-4438 x29230 to request cards for your community or organization.*

**PSN Partners Spotlight: Durham's Gang Reduction Strategy (GRS) Committee**

Community agencies and organizations across Durham are working hard to analyze and implement many of the forty-five recommendations developed by Dr. James (Buddy) Howell and Deborah Weisel in the city's 2007 Gang Assessment. The Gang Reduction Strategy team is coordinated by citizen volunteer, Newman Aguiar. Three subcommittees work under the umbrella of the GRS committee. They are: Prevention (chaired by Jim Barbee and Donnie Phillips), Intervention (chaired by Dr. Kedrick Lowery), and Suppression (chaired by Chief Steve Mihaich and Sgt. Lori Ray). The groups will identify local agencies and organizations that currently provide services with regard to each recommendation. They will then analyze those strategies already in place and working toward the desired outcome, and examine the feasibility of implementing new, recommended strategies.

**ONE SIMPLE THING YOU CAN DO to Prevent Gun Violence in Your Community:** *Be an active member of the community!*

You can do this by becoming involved in neighborhood events. Getting to know your neighbors and becoming involved in residential activities will help you to know when something out of the ordinary occurs.

You can also become involved by being observant and contact 911 as soon as you witness criminal activity. While bad guys refer to this as "snitching" you will be proactive in keeping your own home and loved ones safe.

**Pointers for Parents: Five Important Lessons to Teach Your 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:**

November 11: Durham Youth Summit

November 12: Partners for Youth

*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.*