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News Release

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Statement from Durham Police Chief C.J. Davis on Recent Shootings

Over the past 48 hours, the Durham Police Department responded to multiple shooting incidents within a very short period of time; two of those incidents were fatal. Three of the incidents involved multiple victims who sustained non-life threatening injuries. First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family and friends of those victims who lost their lives to more senseless violence in our City. We are all frustrated at the continuation of violence in our community by people who see no other way of resolving their disputes, but through violent confrontation – many times through the use of a firearm.

We want to assure the community that our top priority is to investigate and solve the recent shooting crimes in an effort to prevent further gun violence, and loss of life. Our gang investigators, and Intelligence Unit, are carefully analyzing these cases and are gathering and sharing information with DPD officers. Additionally, our department is working closely with other local, state and federal agencies to solve these crimes. Based on our preliminary investigative efforts, we believe some of the recent shootings are gang related, a result of continued retaliation between groups. There is no evidence that suggest the disputes are turf related, but have occurred in various Districts throughout the city.

Today we, the Durham Police Department, began preliminary work to stand up an enhanced Gang Task Force, adding additional personnel to meet the demand for greater intervention in addressing violent gang offenders. Durham County Sheriff Clarence Birkhead has also agreed to support this effort with additional personnel. It is our hope that directing more focused investigative efforts towards gang members, and other offenders who are responsible, will help to suppress gun violence throughout our City.

Lastly, our most effective tool in crime reduction is the assistance we receive from the community. We know there are people in our community who have information about recent crimes. We ask that you call us, and share this information with our investigators. If you elect to remain anonymous, you can call CrimeStoppers at (919) 683-1200. CrimeStoppers pays cash rewards for information leading to arrests in felony cases and callers never have to identify themselves. There are also CrimeStoppers operators who speak Spanish.