How YOU Can Anonymously Report Crime in Our Community

There are 3 ways to report criminal activity in your neighborhood:

- Call 911 to report suspicious activity, crimes in progress, or situations that require an immediate response by emergency personnel. Representatives from the Durham Police Department and 911 Emergency Communications worked with local legislators to keep residents safe by ensuring that callers’ voices are altered should 911 tapes be released to the media.

- For non-emergency situations that require an officer to respond, call 560-4600. Be mindful that voices are not routinely altered on this line. If you have concerns about your identity being known feel free to call 911.

Although it is standard procedure for the dispatcher to ask, you are not required to provide personal contact information when reporting incidents. You may also request that an officer contact you by telephone instead of coming to your home.

- Call CrimeStoppers at 683-1200 if you have information that you would like to provide to the police anonymously about crimes which have occurred in your neighborhood.

Information provided to CrimeStoppers is given in complete confidentiality and callers are never required to identify themselves. CrimeStoppers will pay cash rewards for tips leading to identification and arrest of persons wanted for felony crimes.

How YOU Can Help to Reduce Gun Crime in Our Community

- Get to know your neighbors. Alert one another when you’ll be out of town or when you expect a strange car to be parked in front of your home.

- Join Neighborhood Watch or form a chapter in your area. For more information, contact the Community Resource officer for your police district.

- Do not carry large amounts of cash.

- Lock your home and your vehicle(s). Do not leave anything valuable where it can be seen (i.e., close curtains at night, do not leave empty TV boxes at the curb, do not leave valuables in an unsecured vehicle).

- Be familiar with North Carolina Gun Laws. It is illegal to discharge a firearm within the city limits.

- Call the Impact Team at 560-1200 when you see graffiti that should be removed.

- Teach children not to touch firearms but to immediately notify a responsible adult if they find a gun.

- Store legal firearms in a locked cabinet with bullets removed and secured in a separate place.

- Utilize locks during transportation or when guns are out of locked cabinets. Gun locks are available at no charge at Durham Police substations, the Durham County Health Department, Durham County Jail, and the Durham County Sheriff’s Office.

- Photograph firearm serial numbers in case guns are stolen.

- Do not purchase firearms for anyone other than yourself.

- Be a witness in the crimes you report that lead to arrest.

For more information, contact the Project Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator at (919) 560-4438 x29230
E-mail: jennifer.snyder@durhamnc.gov

Project Safe Neighborhoods and Durham Police Department

Partnering With Our Community to Keep Durham Safe
What is Project Safe Neighborhoods?

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive, strategic approach to combating gun crime by linking together local, state and federal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community members to implement a multi-faceted strategy to deter and punish gun crime from all sides. It is a commitment to reduce gun crime by networking local programs that target gun crime with state and federal efforts.

Durham’s PSN Coordinator utilizes local data to develop annual initiatives that educate citizens and connect them with law enforcement representatives in order to work together for community safety.

The Durham Police Department (DPD) also takes a multi-pronged approach to the reduction of gun crime. DPD does not concentrate solely on enforcement; but also focuses on community education and human service programs to address issues that cause crime. The Department utilizes numerous tools to keep residents safe. These include:

Violent Incident Response Team
The Violent Incident Response Team (VIRT) is comprised of eight Durham police officers and one Durham County sheriff's deputy. The VIRT officers target crime, particularly gun crime, and violent offenders. The team focuses on specific persons and groups suspected of criminal involvement.

Warrant Squad
The Durham Police Department Warrant Squad is assigned to reduce a previous backlog of warrants in the system. The squad is making great strides in accomplishing this task.

Cross-Agency Sworn Officers
Thirteen DPD officers are jointly assigned to six federal task forces. The task forces include the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

High Enforcement Abatement Teams
Four of the city’s five police districts have a High Enforcement Abatement Team (HEAT) that targets problem areas, persons, and crime trends. District commanders use their HEAT officers to handle crime “hot spots” as well as quality of life issues such as street-level drug sales, prostitution and loitering. HEAT officers confiscate guns, document gang members, make drug arrests, serve search warrants, conduct checking stations and assist patrol officers and investigators when necessary.

Intelligence Unit
The DPD Intelligence Unit gathers, organizes and distributes information on the identity, activities and movements of major criminals, members and activities of radical groups in the area, suspected terrorist individuals and groups, and others who are suspected of being a threat to law and order in our area. This unit is responsible for the acquisition, processing and dissemination of intelligence information and the maintenance of intelligence records and files.

United States Attorney’s Office
The United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of North Carolina works with DPD to review crimes that involve the use of firearms. Representatives from the Durham Police Department, Durham’s District Attorney’s Office, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office meet regularly to determine whether state or federal court would impose the harshest sentence for the unlawful use of a firearm in Durham.

Crisis Intervention Team Officers
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers’ primary goals are improved officer and public safety and the redirection of individuals with mental illness from the judicial system to the health care system. Due to their intensive training, incidents that could become stressful and dangerous remain caring and orderly. Since 2007, over 1,000 Durham Police officers and other law enforcement / emergency response representatives have received Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. In 2012, Durham Police officers responded to 3,500 mental health/substance abuse calls for service.

GREAT Officers
Officers in the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Unit work with students in the Durham Public Schools. The Police Department’s GREAT officers focus on teaching 4th and 6th grade students how to resist joining a gang, conflict resolution techniques, and positive decision-making skills. GREAT is a nationwide program that has proven successful in keeping children out of gangs.

Community Resource Officers
The Community Resource Unit officers work closely with residents to fight crime and improve the quality of life in the community. Community resource officers develop and maintain Neighborhood Watch programs, carry out security inspections for businesses and residences upon request, present crime prevention programs and distribute crime prevention literature.

BECOMING
Project BECOMING, a partnership between the Durham Police Department and The Durham Center, targets 16 to 21 year olds who are at risk or disconnected from needed services or support. The DPD staff consist of a sergeant, two officers, and 1.5 Clinical Case Managers who are based at the Durham Police Department.

Police Athletic League
The Durham Police Athletic League (PAL) program has several goals: providing youth with an alternative to crime and risky decisions, building bridges with the community and creating mentoring relationships between officers and youth. More than 500 youths ages 5 to 18 have participated in Durham Police Athletic League. The PAL program includes basketball, soccer, and baseball leagues. Durham police officers serve as coaches and mentors after-hours and during their personal time.