

Human Committee Minutes

DATE

March 5, 2026

TIME

3:30 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: **DR. STEPHANIE CREDLE**

IN ATTENDANCE

Jessica McMillan, Tony Brown, Dr. Stephanie Credle, Hazel Blount, Myra Belgreat and Betty Reese

ABSENT

Jennifer Fields, Steven Green,

MINUTES

February minutes approved

Discussed upcoming Powwow and schedule of volunteers. Jessica will resend the volunteer schedule.

Volunteers:

Myra Belgreat	10:00 AM	12:00 PM
Stephanie Credle	8:00 AM	12:00 PM
Robert Bigham	12:00 PM	Close
Steven Green	Floater	

Sheriff Tyree Davis was in attendance and discussed the following topics

Community Concerns & Fears

- Some community members are afraid to take their children to school, attend doctor's appointments or participate in community events due to fear of being targeted.
- There are concerns that police checks are targeting the Latino community
- Myra was approached and accused of harboring undocumented people while shopping

Incident with Black SUVs

- A citizen called after seeing a fleet of black SUVs parked at White Motors. Myra investigated and found out the SUVs were for sale.

Other Community Issues

- Reports of mistreatment of seniors and people with disabilities, possibly at the tax office
- Concern about the water situation in Hollister

Sheriff Tyree's response was that issues regarding the Tax Office should be forwarded to Doris Hawkins. The Sheriff also stated that his office visited polling locations during voting to ensure safety and prevent harassment.

Ice Activity

- ICE does not notify local agencies when they went to Charlotte and Raleigh
- ICE does not want local assistance.
- ICE operates under federal guidelines and has more authority than local law enforcement
- Local law enforcement must adhere to state and federal guidelines
- ICE focuses on immigration matters, not typical local law enforcement duties like break-ins.

Sheriff's Office and ICE Collaboration

- By law, every sheriff's office in North Carolina must cooperate with ICE after an arrest to verify legal immigration status.
- If legal status cannot be verified, ICE must be notified and can issue a detainer.
- State legislation mandated this participation because previously, it was optional for each Sheriff's office.
- The Sheriff's office is responsible for the jail, hence the collaboration with ICE falls under their purview, not the police department.

Community Concerns and Proactive Measures

- Concerns arise from community unrest seen in other areas due to immigration issues.
- Citizens are impacted and worried, leading to potential actions against those perceived as aiding undocumented individuals.
- The focus is on proactive measures to support the community if similar situations occur.
- Aiding undocumented individuals who are here legally is not a concern.

Addressing Misconceptions and Harassment

- There's a misconception that many people in the Latino community are undocumented, even though many are American citizens.
- Myra assists the Latino community, including American citizens who may not speak English, by providing court interpretation. As a result, she faces backlash due to the assumption that everyone she helps is undocumented.

Safety and Community Perception

- Safety is a feeling. Even if crime statistics are low, if people don't feel safe, their perception is valid.
- The goal is to provide resources and information to help people feel safer, especially national news about immigration enforcement.

Building Trust and Accountability

- The Sheriff is visible on Facebook and engages in non-policing activities to build trust with the community.
- Uniforms help people associate law enforcement with the Sheriff and his officers.
- A complaint form is available on the Halifax NC Sheriff website for citizens to commend or complain about deputies.
- An internal Affairs (IA) unit investigates complaints, focusing on communication issues.
- The agency takes responsibility for officer misconduct and acknowledges when officers have acted correctly.
- Actions by one law enforcement agency affect all agencies.
- Law enforcement agencies need to ensure they hire qualified individuals and remove “bad apples,” preventing them from moving to other agencies.
- Some agencies allow officers to resign during investigations, which doesn’t reflect the true reason for their departure when they seek employment elsewhere.
- Body cameras help with accountability. Body camera footage is reviewed when complaints are made, not only to assess the deputy’s actions but also to ensure proper use of the camera.
- Sheriff Davis advises to encourage community to comply with the law enforcement and ICE and complain later through proper channels. You comply now so that you can complain later.
- If law enforcement has a legal reason to be present, documentation must be produced
- If someone calls about a suspicious person, officers have a legal reason to investigate
- Refusal to provide identification in such cases can lead to arrest for resisting, obstructing or delaying.

Law Enforcement Interactions

- Training emphasizes respectful questioning and interactions
- Officers are expected to be professional, courteous, fair, firm and consistent

Sheriff’s Office Initiatives and Challenges

- The Sheriff’s office is dealing with issues that are not their responsibility, such as mental health crisis.
- Many people in the detention center are there due to mental health or substance abuse issues.
- The jail uses technology like tablets for inmates to FaceTime with family.
- Tablets also provide access to religious materials, GED classes, parenting classes and job listings.
- Inmates earn points for completing classes, which will be used to watch movies or play games.
- Overcrowding is a major issue at the detention center
- The jail has 85 beds, but 115 inmates housed as of this morning.
- The county is working on getting a new detention center

ICE Tracker

- There are websites, however accuracy may not be confirmed.

Community Engagement and Education

- The Sheriff’s office aims to educate the public, particularly the youth, to foster trust and understanding, rather than fear, of law enforcement
- The Sheriff is open to speaking at local churches to address community concerns, including noise ordinances related to vehicles with loud music.

Addressing Concerns and Misconceptions

- The Sheriff clarifies that complaints regarding legal shooting activities and vehicle noise ordinances are being addressed.
- The Sheriff emphasizes the importance of directing complaints to the appropriate local law enforcement agency based on jurisdiction.
- The Sheriff’s office focuses on priority calls like break-ins, while the highway patrol handles issues like dirt bikes on highways
- The Sheriff states, “we are going to do our job and I’m going to hold my team accountable for our job, but I’m not going to hold my team accountable for anyone else’s job.

School Resource Officers (SROs)

- The Sheriff highlights the critical role of SRs in shaping young people’s perceptions of law enforcement.

Community Engagements

- Sheriff Davis advised to set up any community facing events to contact cash@halifaxnc.com
- Email with date, time and agenda of the event

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