

# **North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Anti- Gang Summary by City**

**Asheville**

**Burlington**

**Concord**

**Charlotte**

**Durham**

**Greenville**

**High Point**

**Monroe**

**Salisbury**

**Wilmington**

# Asheville

## **Asheville Police Department- Summary of APD Anti-Gang Efforts (as of October 2010)**

When the Asheville Police Department Gang Suppression Unit was formed two years ago, there were no formal tracking measures for gangs, gang members, or gang associates in Buncombe County. The APD GSU created a gang database using an OSSI Records Management System module. More than 80 different gangs are now represented in the gang database.

GSU detectives support APD general assignment detectives by identifying suspects, conducting interviews, showing lineups, following leads, conducting search warrants and seeking additional leads. GSU also assists our School Resource Officers with investigations and intervening in conflicts between gang members at school.

GSU detectives have conducted Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T) Family Classes in the West Riverside Operation Weed & Seed communities of Pisgah View Apartments and Burton Street. G.R.E.A.T was a partnership with Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Officers trained some 13 families on conflict resolution, communication skills, social media and Internet safety, and positive peer skills.

The unit has conducted more than 100 community presentations on regional gang activity to emergency responders, healthcare workers, social workers, community activist groups, educators, neighborhood associations and private organizations.

GSU detectives also conducted a media campaign to reduce gang and gun violence in Asheville. This campaign was featured on billboards, TV, radio stations, and via posters placed in more than 200 city locations. GSU detectives also designed and published a gang awareness brochure in Spanish and English.

The Gang Unit also provides training to law enforcement officers. This training is provided to every Asheville police officer and has also been provided to the Cherokee Indian Police Department, the Black Mountain Police Department, and the A-B Tech Police Department.

GSU detectives made 122 arrests in 2008, issued 63 citations, and were primary investigators in 96 cases. GSU detectives made 93 arrests in 2009, issued 159 citations, and were primary investigators in 51 cases. GSU detectives as of mid-October have made 79 arrests in 2010, issued 153 citations, and have been primary investigators in 62 cases.

The Gang Suppression Unit was merged this fall with the Vice Unit with a sergeant assigned to lead it. This allows the pooling of resources to address local gang and vice issues.

GSU detectives also provide regular support to N.C. Probation, ALE, DEA, the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office and the Buncombe County Anti-Crime Task Force. This support includes assisting in controlled purchases or sale of narcotics, firearms, and stolen property, as well as criminal intelligence support such as list of gang members and their networks. A GSU detective also participates as a part-time partner Task Force Officers with the federal Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms agency.

# Burlington

The Burlington Police Department is an active participant in the Alamance City-County Gang Crime Task Force, which the Burlington Police Department was instrumental in forming in 2008, assigning two (2) full-time gang crime investigators to that Task Force. The Alamance County Sheriff's Department also has investigators assigned to that Task Force, and each of the remaining law enforcement agencies in Alamance County provide resources as needed to combat gang crime on a county-wide basis. The Task Force includes a Resource Coordinator, who works closely with the investigators to link potential or active gang members with the appropriate services that can help them to either get out of a gang or avoid becoming a gang member. This balance approach includes:

- **Prevention:** Investigator and the Resource Coordinator conduct community gang awareness training programs. Requests for such presentations come from members of the community concerned about gang graffiti and gang crimes. Gang Investigators present a power point of Gang Awareness information and pass out Gang Awareness brochures. Also, the Resource Coordinator has developed a gang awareness booklet for parents and teachers, and that Coordinator both facilitates and takes part in the presentations and mentoring of at-risk youth, and coordinates the prompt removal of gang graffiti.
- **Intervention:** Investigators respond to complaints received from the community, school officials, parents, church leaders, and others concerning gang-related activities, as well as suspicious behavior on the part of juveniles that could indicate involvement in a gang. The investigators document the information, and meet with the complainant(s) and, whenever possible, the gang members themselves (or those at risk of becoming gang members). They assess that person's gang involvement, and attempt to turn him/her away from gang membership and activities through direct mentoring or referral, through the Resource Coordinator, to services that can help the affected person and his/her family.
- **Suppression:** Gang Investigators work closely with the Criminal Investigations detectives, Special Operations officers, patrol officers, and the Community Crime Abatement Team, to collect intelligence on gangs, to investigate gang crimes, and to build prosecutable cases to suppress those crimes. Gang investigators work closely with the District Attorney's office to ensure that gang crimes are prosecuted fully and timely.
- **Law enforcement training:** Gang Investigators also conduct training for officers within the Department regarding new gangs, gang culture, and observed trends in gang activity. Much of this training is achieved through daily sharing of gang activity intelligence through emails or visits to Patrol lineups to provide timely gang intelligence. Gang investigators attend regional gang training and intelligence meetings, and pass that information on to all officers of the Department.

# Concord

## City of Concord Gang Suppression Report

The City of Concord has implemented several approaches to the issues concerning gangs. The Concord Police Department created a Gang Intelligence Unit in order to begin implementing training and education to the officers of the department as well as the citizens of Concord. This unit's responsibility includes maintaining intelligence files and conducting investigations on validated and suspected gang members in the City of Concord. Gang members, gangs and suspected members are documented and shared through the state wide Gang Net intelligence system. This system allows all information concerning criminal street gangs to be viewed by other participating law enforcement agencies within the state.

Along with these responsibilities the unit also provides mandatory training to the officers of the Concord Police Department in order to educate and inform them on gang member behavior and trends. This training allows the patrol officers to recognize and appropriately handle situations they encounter on a daily basis concerning gangs or possible gang members. Their experiences and investigations are shared with the Gang Intelligence Unit to help it evolve and adapt to the constantly changing gang landscape so further training and safety issues can be addressed. The Concord Police Department Code Enforcement Unit also receives this training and is paramount in the locating and documenting of gang graffiti throughout the city. They submit all graffiti photographs and locations to the Gang Intelligence Unit for documentation and intelligence purposes. Training and education is not limited to just the police department.

Every middle school and high school in the city limits of Concord receives yearly training for the staff and employees. Issues of gang awareness and activity are addressed as well as assisting in identifying gang members and gangs in the school system. The school staff is encouraged to ask questions and provide information of the concerns at their school. Gang awareness informational booklets are provided for all teachers and staff to help them identify and recognize issues related to gang members or gang activity. This training is available and has been conducted on the elementary school level as well. Through the school system gang awareness training is conducted for school sponsored Parent Academies. During this training parents and concerned family members receive information on gang trends, recognition and how it affects their children. In addition, the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance, Education and Training) program is taught to all middle school students in the City.

Gang awareness training is open to the public and has been conducted through church organizations, neighborhood/community meetings, private business and civic organizations. Information sharing throughout the community and law enforcement has been successful in allowing the Concord Police Department to maintain a sense of the gang element within the city and properly enforce and subdue that activity.

# Charlotte

## Gang of One 2010-2011 Programs

### Prevention

**Adult Gang Recognition and Awareness Workshop** a 1-hour workshop designed to educate participants about gangs in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and efforts to reduce gang violence and crime through a comprehensive strategy of prevention, intervention, suppression, and reentry.

**Dangers Involved with Gangs (DIG)** a 4-hour gang prevention program that provides 5th grade students with positive decision-making skills to resist gang influence.

**No Easy Walk** a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) gang prevention, peer leadership, outdoor challenge program for middle school youth who evidence early indicators of gang influence and behaviors.

**Racing 2 Inspire, Stimulate and Educate (RISE)** a hands-on, career-path program that provides high school students with an innovative approach to math and science through the local motorsports industry.

**Youth Gang Resistance Training** a 1-hour dialogue designed to talk with youth about the realities of gang life and introduce them to positive alternatives through Gang of One.

### Intervention/Reentry Programs

**Gang of One Hotline** a phone number staffed by CMPD bi-lingual volunteers. Callers may call the Hotline to obtain information about local gangs or gang prevention programs, request an educational presentation, or make a referral to Gang of One regarding a youth who is at risk of joining or involved in a gang who may want assistance in getting out or staying out of a gang.

**Truancy Safe/Neighborhoods** a CMPD/Gang of One and CMS collaborative that reduces juvenile criminal activity and truancy and increases student attendance in school utilizing CMPD directed patrols and a school-based truancy intervention team model.

**Truancy Court** an early intervention program for elementary and middle school students who have been chronically truant throughout the school year.

**Gang Reentry and Intervention Team (GRIT Team)** is composed of a group of professionals who work together to case manage clients and identify additional prevention, suppression, and reentry activities needed in the targeted community. The GRIT Team is supported by Gang of One Case Reentry and Intervention Managers.

### Community Impact Projects

Gang of One, in partnership with the Gang Prevention Coalition, sought proposals from community organizations in March 2010 to implement strategic initiatives in selected areas. Using a thorough Request for Proposal process, eight grassroots agencies were identified to provide "Community Impact Projects" in Clanton Park/Roseland and Idlewild South:

- Anuvia – TRU Boys
- Christ Lutheran Church - McClintock Partners in Education
- City Dive – Bell & Buckner Football Symposium
- Emerging Leaders for Young Black Males
- Girl Scouts Hornets' Nest Council
- Girl Talk Foundation
- Mi Casa Su Casa
- Mind, Body & Soul: Tiger King Summer Camp

# Durham

## Durham's Anti- Gang Efforts

The City of Durham and Durham County maintain a concentrated and focused effort to address gangs and gang related incidents through the Gang Reduction Strategy and the Comprehensive Anti- Gang Initiative grant. The purpose is to reduce the youth-gang related incidents and create positive outcomes for youth. Durham's approach is based on the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice's comprehensive anti-gang model which incorporates three strategies—enforcement, prevention and re-entry—to form a comprehensive array of services and activities to address the gang involvement. This is accomplished through coordinating City, County, and nonprofit strategies, activities and resources to address the challenge.

- Gang Reduction Strategy

In November 2007, the City of Durham and Durham County commissioned a comprehensive report to study the law-enforcement and social service efforts to combat gangs. The report concluded with 45 recommendations and strategies for Durham in several key areas, including the criminal justice system, juvenile justice system, public school system, and the community. The report serves as a starting point to inform citizen, agencies and organizations about gang-related issues. After the report, a steering committee composed of City and County officials, citizens, criminal justice professionals and faith community representatives met to prioritize and develop strategies to implement the recommendations. To date, 10 of the 45 recommendations have been implemented. Under the committee's auspices, 35 recommendations are in progress.

- Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI) Grant

The U.S. Department of Justice awarded the City of Durham a \$1,250,000.00 CAGI grant. This grant provides the framework and funding to coordinate resources within a targeted 2 square mile geographical area to ensure a seamless effort to reduce gangs and create positive outcomes for youth. Due to the grant's programs, reductions in violent crime categories have occurred within the targeted area. In addition, 65 youth, many of whom were validated gang members, have earned GEDs and 28 youth and young adults (ages 16-21) have been linked to services through Project BUILD, an intervention team, that provides comprehensive individual assessments of youth identified as gang involved or at risk of gang involvement. Also, the North Carolina Child Response Initiative (NCCRI), a mental health provider, provides mental health services to youth identified as gang involved or at risk of gang involvement. NCCRI provides training to Durham Police Department's Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) officers. G.R.E.A.T. is a prevention program that addresses gang issues and at-risk behavior within Durham's elementary, middle and high schools. CAGI funding provides law enforcement with gang training and new technology to enable officers to better communicate and coordinate overt and covert operations. Funding also supports Criminal Justice Resource Center services such as housing, substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavior therapy, educational, training and employment for transitioning ex-offenders back into the Durham community.

# Greenville

## Summary of Gang Suppression, Intervention and Prevention Initiatives

### I. Suppression Initiatives

#### I. a. Greenville Police Department Gang Unit:

The Gang Unit Supervisor and five detectives, (one of the detectives is designated as the Career Criminal Detective) are key players in all of the departmental prevention, intervention and suppression initiatives, they provide the expertise to develop and refine programs.

#### I. b. Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force

In addressing terrorism domestic and abroad, the FBI has developed the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The FBI has deputized the Greenville Police Department's Gang Unit, along with deputation with the U.S. Marshall's service. The FBI has recognized certain organized gang groups at the top of their recognized domestic threat groups, and has taken an organized approach toward extended investigations targeting criminal gang activity and violence. The Greenville Gang Task Force has been investigating targeted gang groups in the Greenville/Pitt County area throughout 2010.

#### I. c. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) Task Force

Several members of the Greenville Gang Unit have been deputized by the BATFE to assist in gun violence and gang/criminal activity related investigations. The investigations are centralized around illegal gun purchases, sales, possession and/or use of a firearm in the commission of a crime. The Gang Unit's participation in both of these task force's have given the Department the ability to be directly involved in federal investigations targeting criminal gang activity and violence, and introduce these criminals directly into the federal justice system.

#### I. d. Educational Presentations

The Gang Unit provides educational presentations to university/school faculty and students, mental health/social workers, neighborhood associations, churches and youth organizations

### II. Intervention Initiatives

#### II. a. High Incident Targeted Strikes (H.I.T.S.)

The Greenville Police Department is part of the Leadership Group (a select group of jurisdictions [nationwide]) committed to working with the National Network for Safe Communities to develop and refine the group focused violence deterrence model. The H.I.T.S. Initiative in Greenville is focused on violent crimes involving weapons. The objective is for the three key partners, law enforcement (inclusive of Probation and Parole and Pitt County Sheriff's Office), social service providers and community representatives to collaborate closely and focus on the target group. This initiative relies heavily on suppression, and then intervention by social services and the community.

#### II. b. Project Success

Project Success is a 4 pronged (Turning Around to Success, Youth Apprenticeship Program, Mentoring Program and Parents Guiding for Success) multilayered strategy designed to prevent 100 youth ages 16-21 who are on probation and still in school from dropping out, joining gangs or going further into the criminal justice system.

# Greenville (continued)

## **II. c. Blue Print for Peace**

Blue Print for Peace (BPP) is a prevention and intervention program targeting youth ages 8 to 17 who have been involved in violent incidents with more than two individuals, have continuing confrontations, and who have gang affiliations. Their families, friends, and victims are encouraged to attend a BPP meeting. The objectives are to confront the youth, get to the root of the problem using mediation and group facilitation techniques, and ultimately to get opposing parties to commit to solving their problems peaceably. Community groups such as the NAACP, PORT and Citizens United Against Violence speak to the youth about the consequences of their behavior and the need to stop the violence. The meetings both intervene with current gang behaviors and help suppress future gang behaviors and criminal offenses by monitoring the target individuals. A BPP meeting can defer further criminal activity for three to four months.

## **III. Prevention**

### **III. a. Police Athletic League – Afterschool Programs**

The Greenville Police Athletic League (PAL) operates afterschool, spring and summer programs for 130-200 at risk youth ages 5-13 from three sites, South Greenville Gym (40 youth), Thomas Foreman Recreational Center (60 -80 youth) and Welcome Middle school (30 – 80 youth). PAL is a youth crime prevention program that provides pro-social opportunities such as: educational, athletic and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth throughout the school year.

### **III. b. Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T)**

The G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program, a 13 week in-school curriculum is utilized to educate all 6th graders in the Pitt County School system about the dangers of delinquency, youth violence and gang membership.

### **III. c. Re-Entry Program**

The Re-Entry Program seeks to promote safer communities in Greenville/Pitt County by helping non violent ex-offenders, recently released from long-term incarceration make choices that will help them stay out of the judicial system, and reduce the likelihood of them returning to their previous criminal or gang involved lifestyles. The program provides guidance and direction to essential services, such as housing, employment, education, and mental and physical health which are necessary for a successful re-entry into the community and thus reducing the recidivism and crime rates.

### **III. d. Student Success Academy (SSA)**

The Greenville Police Department, Pitt County Schools and community-based organizations annually provide, approximately 100 rising 5th graders with the opportunity to take part in the Student Success Academy. The Academy provides an intensive summer school schedule followed by long term support and monitoring through high school graduation. Academic emphasis is placed on mathematics, reading and community service. The Greenville Police Department participates in “Fun Fridays” where the youth spend Fridays interacting with the Police Officers in educational and fun activities.

### **III. e. Citizens United Against Violence**

Citizens United Against Violence (CUAV) is a Greenville/Pitt County grass roots organization that addresses the current violence facing the community through community mobilization efforts designed to encourage citizens to create a community where youth and adults reject violence and gangs. CUAV Board is made up of citizens and city/county leaders who came together after numerous youth homicides occurred in early 2005. Monthly meetings are held throughout the county to ensure all residents have an opportunity to attend and voice their concerns. The Greenville Police Department is represented on the Board.

### **III. f. Greenville/Pitt County Gang Prevention Alliance**

Greenville Police Department personnel were responsible for forming the Greenville/Pitt County Gang Alliance. The group meets monthly for the exchange of information.



# High Point

The High Point Police Department (HPPD) has been nationally recognized for success with our community policing model for reducing gun violence, drug violence and gang violence. The HPPD received the Innovations in American Government Award from the Ashe Institute at Harvard (2007) and a National League of Cities Gold Award Winner (2008). Our approach is a multi-dimensional, partnership based, focused deterrent strategy that identifies and targets violent behavior of individuals and groups/gangs. Our results include lower violent crime, increased community trust, fewer citizen complaints, fewer arrests, and reduced recidivism.

The Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF) uses a comprehensive, collaborative, data driven, strategic approach to identify violent repeat offenders and/or groups, employing prevention and intervention techniques to reduce violence. The VCTF is a partnership between the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, Probation & Parole, District Attorney and the United States Attorney. The partnership is supported by a community group known as the High Point Community Against Violence (HPCAV). HPCAV began as a grass roots effort of concerned citizens who wanted to support the police department in violence reduction. The HPCAV has grown into a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization made up of community members, clergy, service agencies, non-profits, private, governmental and educational agencies. Members of HPCAV respond to the scenes of acts of violence alongside the police department, provide the moral voice of the community to identified repeat offenders, participate in the intervention strategies, and coordinate community resources for those who want help. The HPCAV has also grown into a conduit for information sharing between the community and the police department.

For example, in 2008 we applied the High Point model to reduce gang related armed robbery. In 2006 & 2007 High Point experienced back to back years of increase in robberies (22%-2006, 26%-2007). Analysis of the arrest data revealed the number of persons 18 and under arrested for armed robbery had doubled while other age groups stayed the same. Further review of the incidents and individuals arrested indicated most had a gang affiliation so we concluded the robbery increase was driven by young gang members. Backed by our community partners, HPPD selected the most violent gang as a demonstration group May 2008. The demonstration gang was systematically dismantled based on the exposures for sanctions of the individuals (i.e., expediting pending charges, gun cases adopted federally, drug arrests, probation revocation, etc.). We then delivered a deterrent message to representatives of all the other 25 active gangs in High Point. Those attending the call-in were to take back to their group the message that gun violence will no longer be tolerated. The next robbery committed by a member of their group would bring the same intense focus from law enforcement as the demonstration group received. We could not pay that kind of attention to 25 groups at the same time but we could do one group at a time. At the same call-in members of HPCAV offered help to any gang members who wanted help to change their life. Following that call-in, robberies decreased and by year's end robbery had decreased by 7%; violent crime across all categories decreased 12%.

The sustained results of the application of the High Point Focused Deterrence Model has been a 46% reduction in our violent crime index between 1997 and 2009.

# Monroe

The goal of the safe school services of the Monroe Police Department and Union County Schools is to provide a safe, orderly, and caring learning environment for all students and staff. In adhering to this goal, gang activity within the schools is strictly prohibited.

Two officers at the middle school level teach the GREAT Program (Gang Resistance Education and Training), to sixth graders. During the 2010-2011 school year, 161 classes on gang resistance will be taught at Monroe Middle School. Each of these classes was approximately 45 minutes long. On the high school level, gang awareness classes will be taught to nearly 300 students, educating the students on what to look for and how to report it.

At the start of each school year, all school resource officers and school staff receive training on how to recognize gangs, their symbols and activities. This is also done when new teachers are added to the school roster. The officers and the schools have worked together to develop prevention and intervention strategies to discourage gangs and gang-related activities. The strategies include support groups, counseling programs and extra-curricular activities.

Random weapon searches are performed at the city schools with metal detectors. These searches include the entire school grounds and any and all bags.

The Violent Crimes Task Force was formed in 2007 to target career criminals that commit crime in the City of Monroe. Since its inception, there have been approximately 10 individuals that were arrested in connection with their ties to gangs. With assistance from both the Union County District Attorney and the United States Attorney's Office, these individuals will be prosecuted to the fullest.

The City of Monroe does not tolerate gang activity. With the support of all branches of law enforcement, everything will be done to keep our citizens safe from these violent individuals.

# Salisbury

## Salisbury-Rowan United Positive Youth Efforts

In February of 2007, the Salisbury Police Department presented a gang activity update to the Salisbury City Council during the annual Outcomes and Goal Setting Retreat. The Salisbury City Council adopted a new goal at the retreat, to “improve neighborhoods and safety for all areas of the city by addressing gang activity in Salisbury through gang awareness, education, information sharing, and enforcement.” City Council later formed a Gang Task Force and funded the city’s first Gang Unit within the Police Department.

In March of 2007, thirteen year old Treasure Feamster was murdered in a cross-fire of gang activity while she was attending a birthday party at the JC Price American Legion Post. This event polarized the community and led to a community-wide collaborative effort to address gang activity and support the community’s youth. Over 500 citizens participated in the community’s first Salisbury Rowan United Gang Summit. Concerned citizens and non-profit partners gave feedback during a facilitated session and pledged their support in efforts to save local youth from violence and illegal activity. A tailored plan for the community was created, the Salisbury Rowan-United Action Agenda, which included eight focus areas: schools & school programs, jobs and jobs training, tutoring & mentoring, law enforcement support programs, parenting, recreational opportunities, faith-based initiatives, and generating positive community awareness.

Salisbury took a leading role in advocating for the Street Gang Prevention Act along with the NC Metropolitan Mayors and held a second community-wide summit with over 450 in attendance. The City of Salisbury has been implementing the plan in partnership with Rowan County Government, Rowan-Salisbury School System, Rowan County United Way and many community non-profit partners over the last three years.

The City of Salisbury with Project Safe Neighborhoods coordinated a Youth Roundtable to understand the pressures that the community’s youth were facing. This partnership also created Family Day events where the community is offered anti-gang education, anti-drug education, parenting classes, and conflict resolution workshops. The Salisbury Police Department began offering G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education & Training) to the school system and community. The City of Salisbury implemented targeted summer youth programs, and enacted an employee mentoring policy and a very successful mentoring drive. Rowan County along with the City of Salisbury partnered on a parenting video, which was distributed community-wide and shown on ACCESS 16 television. Rowan County, Salisbury, and the school system partnered on a county-wide reading program that resulted in a record number of new library cards and the distribution of free books to children county-wide; many of which had never owned a book.

The community has continued implementing the tailored plan by leveraging existing community assets and ensuring that implementation of the plan is a shared responsibility of the community.

# Wilmington

## **City of Wilmington Anti-Gang Strategies**

The City of Wilmington is working to combat gang activity and the influence of gang members in our community in two related arenas; the Wilmington Police Department is engaged in creative, data-driven law enforcement efforts while the City is also pursuing the creation of additional statutory tools to address gang activity through the legislative process.

## **Wilmington Police Department Initiatives**

The department obtained a two-year grant to fund an initiative to address violent crime in the city. The grant is based upon the High Point Model which involves an extensive amount of research into crime and the reasons behind each and those involved. It goes beyond simply solving the crime and into the reasons and people that may be involved outside of the principles. This program targets repeat offenders through community call-ins of those identified as possible perpetrators of crime. The program offers community support and job assistance to these offenders in return for them not returning to crime. In addition, police officers work in the Community Boys & Girls Club to develop a rapport with young people. The call-ins involve members of the community, political establishment, clergy and law enforcement. This program will incorporate the department's re-entry program as an integral part of the process. This is also an example of cooperation and coordination between the Wilmington Police Department and the New Hanover County Sheriff Office.

**Funding:** One police officer, one full-time and one part-time civilian position were funded and hired. These positions will work on the re-entry program and with other community partners. The grant funding for this program is scheduled through June 30, 2011. Additional grant funding was approved to hire an additional full-time position, a Community Resource Coordinator, as requested by UNCG, which is coordinating this program statewide for the North Carolina Crime Commission. It should be noted that the grant also funds programs in the New Hanover County Sheriff Office, Community Boys & Girls Club and Linc.

## **Legislative Efforts**

The City of Wilmington's 2011 legislative agenda, adopted on November 17, includes the following item:

### **Gang Activity as a Public Nuisance and Other Enhancements of Gang Suppression Act**

The North Carolina Gang Suppression Act declared property used by street gangs to be a public nuisance and, therefore, subject to abatement. Last session, the City worked on legislation to enhance the efficacy of these existing statutes in addressing gang issues. The legislation applies the same liability and abatement concepts associated with other public nuisances to gang activity. The bill proposes that any person who regularly associates with others in gang activity may be made a defendant in a nuisance abatement suit. Finally, the legislation provides that if a court finds a nuisance exists, it may order the defendant enjoined from engaging in gang activities and may impose "reasonable requirements" to prevent future gang activity. The bill received serious discussion in House committees this session but was not heard on the floor.

**Requests:** Support complementary changes to nuisance abatement laws to provide other means for addressing intractable gang activity. Consider other statutory and funding options to provide additional tools.