CHARLOTTE

Charlotte City Council

Community Safety Committee

Meeting Summary for April 15, 2010

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

I. **Subject:** **FY2011 Focus Area Plan**
Action: Motion to forward FAP to Council for approval (passed unanimously)

II. **Subject:** **Domestic Violence Advisory Board Recommendation**
Action: Motion to recommend additional City seat to Council (passed unanimously)

III. **Subject:** **Noise Ordinance**
Action: Motion made to direct staff to move forward on text amendments, collecting cost information, convening interested parties to discuss changes, and looking at best practices in other cities (passed unanimously)

IV. **Subject:** **Tethering (Chaining/Tying) of Canines**
Action: None

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Present: Patsy Kinsey, Andy Dulin, Edwin Peacock
Time: 2:05 pm – 3:30 pm

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agenda Package
2. "Introduction to Noise" presentation
3. "Take Home Messages about Sound" handout
4. "Tethering Phase II" presentation
5. "Safety Issues Regarding Chained Dogs" handout provided by Neya Warren

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Acting Chairwoman Patsy Kinsey called the meeting to order and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. Mr. Dulin recognized the members of the Coalition to Unchain Dogs Organization and thanked them for coming. Chairwoman Kinsey turned it over to Assistant City Manager Eric Campbell.

I. FY2011 Focus Area Plan

Mr. Campbell said we are asking the Committee to forward the FY2011 Draft Focus Area Plan (FAP) to be included on the April 26 Council Business Agenda for adoption. There were two copies in the Committee's packets; a color copy, to show all the changes, and a copy that shows what the final draft will look like (both copies attached). He stated that we incorporated the wording that Council member Peacock submitted at the prior meeting and none of that wording changed any of the measures or targets. All Committee members present said they had no comments and were fine with the document. A motion was made by Council member Peacock and seconded by Council member Dulin to forward the draft Plan as presented to Council. *(Motion passed unanimously)*

II. Domestic Violence Advisory Board Recommendation

Chairwoman Kinsey said the second item on the agenda is the Domestic Violence Advisory Board (DVAB) recommendation. She stated that they have the report from the Board in their packets (copy attached). She said they have asked for an additional member to be added to the Board and the Committee would need to make that recommendation to Council if we are in agreement. Mr. Campbell added that when they did their presentation to Council they asked to add a City seat to the Board (see page 10). The Resolution that Council adopted recently has all Board reports working through Committees, so Council would need that recommendation from this Committee. A motion was made by Councilmember Peacock and seconded by Councilmember Dulin to recommend to City Council an additional City seat on the DVAB. *(Motion passed unanimously)*

III. Tethering (Chaining/Tying) of Canines

Mr. Campbell said this is a follow-up from last month's meeting. At that meeting the Committee directed staff to go back and look at plausible options for restrictions on tethering. He then turned it over to Mark Balestra. Mr. Balestra passed around a box of swivel type devices and chains. He stated that the swivel type devices would be approved by Animal Care & Control to prevent choking and death in animals. He also showed different chains and described which ones would be acceptable or not acceptable to Animal Care & Control. He then began reviewing "Tethering Phase II" presentation (copy attached).

He described Animal Care & Control's objectives as ensuring adequate confinement of domestic dogs to provide community safety to our citizens. The second objective is to develop minimum standards for the restraint of dogs that increases their quality of life. Mr. Balestra then read through each regulation that could be considered and/or could make

improvements on. He continued to read through each slide describing in more detail what the different regulations are (see presentation for detail).

Mr. Balestra said that in summary they are trying to decrease neck injuries, incidents of hanging and boredom and increase quality of life. He said that dogs are less likely to become victims of attacks from loose animals and cruelty from humans if there are tethering restrictions. Dogs are less likely to bite or have territorial aggression also. He then asked the Committee if they had any questions.

Peacock: Would the webbing that is used in rock climbing work?

Balestra: We'd have to see some and test them. I've seen dogs chew through chain link fencing. So, we try to test the strength of all materials.

Dulin: What kind of penalties are we talking about?

Balestra: We would allow a grace period and would utilize our warning citation system and process. We would have escalating fines, resulting in $50 for the first offense and $500 for the fifth offense.

Dulin: How many folks do you have working in the field?

Balestra: There are 39 officers and 7 field supervisors.

Dulin: Are they busy?

Balestra: Yes, we have over 30,000 calls a year.

Dulin: How does your budget look for this coming year?

Balestra: I always compare our budget throughout the nation and Charlotte has been a very progressive, companion animal supporter and our budget is healthy enough.

Dulin: Addressed to Ms. Neya Warren - Where are you on the presentation you just heard from staff? I'll tell you that I'm not all the way where you want me to be, but I'm willing to learn. This appears to me that Animal Care & Control is working hard to try to move the City to a step your way.

Warren: What I think has been left out of the presentation is information about safety hazards that chained dogs cause. That's the packet of information that I have given you (copy attached). If you look on the sheet, you'll see North Carolina news articles where people have been bitten by dogs that were either chained or broke loose from their chains. I was involved in a 2007 Lincoln County case, where a 2 year old boy was mauled to death when he walked into a back yard and started playing with a German shepherd that was chained. In legal terms, we call a chained dog an "attractive nuisance." It's similar to a

swimming pool; you have to put a fence around the swimming pool because children are attracted to it. The same goes for a dog chained in the backyard. To a child, that looks like something fun to play with. Chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite than a dog that is fenced in. That has to give you some pause about why they are biting. The common element is not the breed or the size, it's the chain.

Dulin: Is it your contention that everyone should have a fence?

Warren: No, some people keep their dogs inside and they walk them when they go outside. I certainly don't think building free fences is the solution. It helps, but it's not a solution in a city this size. We feel education is the solution. Most of the dog owners that I talk to have no idea that their dog could be a menace to society and when I explain it to them, they immediately want to do something about it. The other thing is the chained dogs that I see are not spayed and neutered. These dogs have puppies on these chains and their chains run across the puppies and kill them. They also add to the dogs that are running around that you can't catch, which adds to the problem of the euthanasia rate in the city.

Kinsey: What direction do we need to give?

Dulin: I'm confused and don't know where we are. I need to be dialed in a little bit.

Campbell: Let me just give you some background. It was originally referred to Committee because an email arrived and asked the Council to take a closer look at the issue. It was referred to us for review and consideration. The last meeting outlined the current ordinance and what it covers currently. At the end of that presentation, we gave 3 options to be considered: 1) do nothing, 2) look at restrictions, or 3) come back with a recommendation to totally ban tethering. The Committee directed staff to follow up on restrictions. That's what we've done here, where Mr. Balestra outlined some restrictions that we feel could be effective. From a staff prospective, we need to know where the Committee wants us to go with this.

Dulin: Can your staff handle the changes you are willing to make?

Balestra: Yes.

Dulin: They are out there doing it anyway, aren't they?

Balestra: They are.

Dulin: So, your group can be responsive to the new stuff and at the same time keep an eye out for poorly tethered animals.
Balestra: Yes and they transition into abuse cases, so we are out there doing those as well. I don't see a dramatic increase for service for some moderate changes.

Dulin: So, if your people see a dog on a logging chain, are they going to do something about

it without being called?

Balestra: Yes.

Kinsey: Since we just saw this I think it would be appropriate to take some time to think about this.

Campbell: We aren't asking for a decision or recommendation, we are just providing information. If you want more time, we can provide that to the Committee and that's fine.

Kinsey: But, unless Mr. Balestra hears from us then he won't know which way to go. So, if there are problems we see we need to get that information to Mr. Balestra.

Dulin: I think I need to go through it again, but not on Committee time. I'm hearing what Ms. Warren is saying, but I'm just not there. I'll get with Mr. Balestra and get him to walk me through where they are now and where they were. I'll do that on my personal time.

Campbell: If any of the Committee needs more information, Mr. Balestra can get you that.

Kinsey: The other two Committee members need to be brought up to speed. Thank you staff and citizens for being here today.

IV. Noise Ordinance

Chairwoman Kinsey said the next item on the agenda is the Noise Ordinance. She then turned it over to Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell said that at the previous meeting, staff talked about the issue of noise in the community and the current Noise Ordinance. In discussion among staff, we thought it was important to come back and give the Committee background information on the whole issue of noise, before we start getting into neighborhood noise versus uptown noise versus concert noise. This is to get a "Noise 101" of what the issues are that we need to consider, as far as measurement instruments, what we are hearing and not hearing and what are some of the issues you need to hear before you move forward. He said that today Audiologist Dr. Joy Houston will walk the Committee through some of the technical aspects of noise ranges and issues. He then turned it over to Dr. Houston.

Dr. Houston began reviewing the "Introduction to Noise" presentation (copy attached).

["What is Sound? / What is Noise?" slide]

Dr. Houston said sound is vibrations moving through the air and arriving at your ear and you hear it. The key is whether or not it is a desirable noise. If it is something that you like, then it is sound. If it's something you don't like, then it's noise. Noise is defined as undesirable sound.

[Requirements for Sound" slide]

Dr. Houston described the four requirements for sound to exist. First, you have to have a source of vibration. That would be the radio, instruments, someone's voice, lawn equipment, cars and things like that. Secondly, you would need a source of energy. Is it gas operated or is it air from your lungs passing through the vocal cords creating a shout? Thirdly, you need a medium, which in most cases that is the air, but sound can travel through solids and liquids as well. Fourthly, you need a receiver. It must be received by something. The receiver, in the location, would be the person's ear, but the key to that is where the receiver is.

["What is Loud?" slide]

Dr. Houston said this slide shows an audiogram. Across the top is the frequency. It's measured in Hertz (Hz) and is set up like a piano, with high and low pitches. Going down the left side of the graph is the intensity or loudness, measured in decibels (dB). The bigger the number, the louder the sound. Zero is not the absence of sound, it is a comparison number. A negative number means better than average. The normal range for hearing is -10 to 25 dB. Normal conversational speech is about 55 to 60 dB. She then read through a couple of different sound levels and their decibels. She stated that a loud radio is 80 dB and around 80 to 90 dB is where we are looking at noise hazard. If you stand arms distance away and you have to raise your voice to talk it's about 85 – 90 dB.

["Measurement of Sound" slide]

Dr. Houston said the measurement of sound is broken into a couple of different parts. First, is the decibel. Going from 40 to 50 dB is not adding to the sound, which is one of the things that is important to understand about sound. When you take the sound pressure, which is required to produce a particular intensity of sound, and double that sound pressure, you are only adding 3 dB. So, if you have sound pressure of the normal dB voice, 60 dB, and you have 2 people talking at exactly the same loudness level, you will end up with a measurement of 63 dB. It's a logarithmic scale.

The equipment used to measure the sound pressure, or energy of the sound, is a sound level meter. CMPD has approximately 15 of these meters to cover the county. The sound level meter measures sound on different scales. There is dB on the A-scale. There used to be one that was a B-scale, but that is no longer used. There is a C-scale, which is for louder sounds. The D-scale is obsolete. There is a Z-scale also, which is linear, but not commonly used. The A-scale is the accepted measure. It mostly approximates the human ear. It is primarily focused on the higher frequencies and filters out some of the lower frequencies, thus the problem with the Noise Ordinance because a lot of people are complaining about the base, but it's not showing up on the meter. Dr. Houston passed around two different examples of sound meters for the Committee to see.

["Inverse Square Law" slide]

Dr. Houston said the Inverse Square Law is really important in determining the location of

measurements. Doubling the distance from a sound source decreases intensity by 6 dB. So, if you have a sound source at 100 feet away at 65 dB and you move 200 feet away, the same source would be measured at 59 dB.

Mr. Hageman said that to this last point, when the Noise Ordinance was reviewed the last time, staff did an experiment with a radio and a noise meter and determined exactly what was just described for the Inverse Square Law.

Dr. Houston said one other thing that affects the same noise measurement is the density of the air and the humidity. If it's raining, windy or very humid, it will absorb some of the sound energy and be measured at a lower intensity level.

Dulin: Are we still getting complaints from the Ritz Carlton?

McCarley: Yes, I heard from them this week.

Dulin: A couple of weekends ago, my wife and some of her friends stayed at the Ritz. I stopped by to see it at midnight and I couldn't hear a thing, and the EpiCentre was rocking.

Kinsey: You couldn't hear the music?

Dulin: I could not hear anything in their room. It was about the 7th floor.

McCarley: What they tell me, is it's only on the side of the hotel that is directly opposite of the Suite nightclub and it's basically on the 4th and 5th floors of the hotel. It's straight in front of Suite's doors on the patio, which they apparently open sometimes.

Kinsey: The Ritz doesn't call me. It's the neighbors in Elizabeth and Dilworth that are near restaurants that have outdoor amplified music.

McCarley: One of the possibilities, if the Committee is interested, is to set up some tours at various noise spots that generate the most problems.

Peacock: Will it help the Police officers and the City Attorney's office by furthering this issue through Committee and taking recommendations back to Council?

McCarley: Thank you for asking. If you all hear what the people who are complaining hear, then you will have a better feel for why this is a growing problem.
Peacock: So, currently we do not have the tools or laws available to appropriately enforce the real problem?

McCarley: Our present ordinance is ineffective.

Peacock: Okay, so I assume you know of larger cities where they do have effective ordinances? Do you have an idea of which direction we need to take the City Attorney's

office in this discussion?

McCarley: Yes and no. Sometimes we have a solution; however, this time the complexity of the problem and the fact that it is different in different locations, makes this one very difficult. It may require a different fix in certain sections of the City. We may end up with one fix for part of the City inside the John Belk Freeway and Brookshire area and a different fix for the rest of the City. The problem has reached a level of community complaint and sophistication that it's going to take more than a simple mandate.

Sgt. Pellicone: We are contacted regularly by other cities to see what we do for noise.

Dulin: Do we know what the measurement level is coming out of Suite?

Pellicone: The only measurement I'm aware of is at the Omni hotel on the College Street side, from inside the building and it's running anywhere from 70 to 80 dbA. The particular room we were brought to to measure from, was looking down at the patio doors of Suite.

Dulin: And that's 200 feet away?

Pellicone: Yes and behind glass.

McCarley: Where people have paid to be.

Dulin: People have paid to be at Suite also.

McCarley: It's going to turn out to be a balancing problem. We may end up suggesting to people like Suite that the solution for them is not opening the doors to create a direct path of noise to businesses across from them. There are all kinds of ways to approach this, but issue number one is does the Council perceive this as a problem? Some neighbors do, some businesses do, the officers do, and our office thinks it is.

Kinsey: Yes, it's a problem.

Peacock: I agree.

Dulin: No, I don't.

Kinsey: So, where do we go from here? Do you want to take a tour?

Peacock: I don't necessarily need a tour. I'd like to have Mr. McCarley and Mr. Hagemann come to us with some draft language that will help them and the Police officers. I would like to know what this is going to do from a financial perspective. I spent a lot of time on the Rental Property Ordinance creation of two non-sworn officers that, in my opinion, get paid a lot of money to manage a database of rental properties. I'm curious if this will create more work for you all and if you will be less effective if you have to manage a program associated

with this ordinance. Are we going to get a request for $10M to have every officer have a noise meter? I just want to be sensitive to the fact so that there is not an unintended consequence.

Pellicone: I understand what you are saying, but we are answering the calls now anyway. There is probably a need for more noise meters, but every police officer does not need one.

Sgt. Stahnke: We don't need one for every officer. Some updated equipment would be nice, but not necessary. We are already answering the issues and it would make our job easier if there was clarification in the wording of the statute on hours of operations, occupancy, etc.

Pellicone: About 15 years ago, CMPD had a Noise Control Specialist and that position was not funded for whatever reason and made the officers take care of it.

Peacock: I think the Attorney's office should work to tighten things up in the ordinance. Also, just to put this out there, we will have a Public Hearing on this ordinance, just as we would any other ordinance.

McCarley: Absolutely. We will make sure that all the affected parties are in it and understand it and have an opportunity to express their opinions to you.

Peacock: I make a motion that we proceed forward in asking staff and the Attorney's office to bring back my request of some suggested text, anything that we might be able to receive from the Police Department, and any costs that they may anticipate. I think that should be the next steps.

Dulin: I'm not ready to second that without any discussion.

Kinsey: I second that and we can discuss it.

Dulin: Okay, with all due respect, I'm concerned that we have worked so hard to get Central Division to where it is, with people coming in to uptown and spending money. Now, we are going to start rationing it back because we don't like what we created. I don't mind moving this forward, but I really want to make sure we don't get rid of this.

Kinsey: We have an ordinance now, we just need to tighten it up and make it better.
Dulin: Those people in Elizabeth live there because they like being able to walk to the bar and now that they have kids, they don't want to live near the bar anymore.
Kinsey: No, that's not true. The owner at Philosopher's Stone has abused the privilege of having outdoor amplified music, in my opinion.

Stahnke: One issue we have with Philosopher's Stone is in the existing ordinance, there is a provision that an establishment can get 10 hours or 20 hours per year, based on the occupancy, but the ordinance doesn't spell out how you establish occupancy. Is it the Fire Marshall's occupancy inside the business or is it how many people you can squeeze on a

parcel of land? So, the bar owner can argue that I can get 1,000 people on my parcel of land so he should get 20 hours. It's too vague. Also, in regard to the people in Elizabeth, the nearest neighbor that complains didn't move there to walk to the bar, he's been there 50 or 60 years and was there long before the bar was. With that particular business, the owner's had amplified sound before and never got a permit. So, if we didn't get a permit for amplified sound we would not have an officer working that is trained to use the equipment. So in some of those instances, they have to make a best case judgment.

Pellicone: I agree that we have a vibrant uptown and we need to continue to keep that going, but there are some tweaks that could really help. A quick example with the EpiCentre and the hotels around there - the ordinance says a "residentially occupied structure." Is a hotel room a residentially occupied structure? We don't know. That's a question we need answered. Also, the folks that are managing the bars just want some guidance. They are willing to comply.

Peacock: I'd like to add to my motion and ask Mr. Campbell to reach out to Michael Smith with Charlotte Center City Partners, Mohammad Jenatian with the hotel group, someone that represents the restaurant associations, REBIC and other to go ahead and get the people to the table early. We are beginning a process that could take six months and the sooner we can get those parties to the table, the better. The only other comment I have is how does New York City or Chicago deal with this?

Dulin: I don't know how this would affect the Music Factory. They have outdoor concerts all the time. This Council stuck its neck out to make those venues down there work.

Peacock: We should add Noah Lazes to that list; they are investors to the Music Factory.

McCarley: One example of what we would look at to balance this is having a limit on the level of noise and also having a limit on the time at which it can occur. What we are willing to tolerate at 10:00 p.m. may be different from what we tolerate at 2:00 a.m.

Kinsey: To the point about what's happening uptown, when Brevard Street gets built out it will be wide open.

Peacock: Absolutely and that is a bold vision for moving uptown down to the next phase.
Dulin: I'm leery and I'm going to vote yes, so that we can study it, but I will reserve my no for later. If I can help the CMPD, then I will try.

Council member Peacock said he made the motion (listed above) and Chairwoman Kinsey seconded it. *(Motion passed unanimously)*

Campbell: Just for next steps in the Committee – this will come back in June since the Towing Ordinance will be discussed in May. We thought we would ask CMPD to come in and talk to you all so you can hear the actual issues of what they are seeing. Do you still want to go forward with that since Council member's Cannon and Burgess aren't here?

Dulin: If we are going to do that, then we need to do some research on our own, so we are more up to speed.

Campbell: We can work on coordinating something.

Kinsey: Let's do that and I'm comfortable with CMPD coming back to describe in detail their issues and concerns.

Campbell: Our next May meeting conflicts with the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence celebration at the Square. Ms. Maynard can poll everyone to find a new date and time that works.

Chairwoman Kinsey thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm

Community Safety Committee

Thursday, April 15, 2010; 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Room CH-14

Committee Members:	Patrick Cannon, Chair Patsy Kinsey, Vice Chair Susan Burgess Andy Dulin Edwin Peacock
Staff Resource:	Eric D. Campbell

AGENDA

I. Focus Area Plan

Staff Resource: Eric Campbell

The Committee will review and discuss the draft Community Safety Focus Area Plan, which was discussed at the Council Retreat. The Committee is requested to forward the Focus Area Plan to the full City Council for inclusion on the April 26 Council Business Agenda.

Attachment: 1. FY11 Draft FAP.doc
2. FY11 Draft FAP.doc (clean version)

II. Domestic Violence Advisory Board Recommendation

Staff Resource: Eric Campbell

The Domestic Violence Advisory Board (DVAB) presented their Annual Report to City Council at the March 8 dinner meeting. In that report, they recommended an additional Council appointee be added to their Board. The Committee is requested to forward a recommendation to the full Council.

Attachment: 3. DVAB 2009 Annual Report.doc

III. Noise Ordinance

Staff Resource: Mac McCarley & Bob Hagemann

Staff will continue to review the current noise ordinance and facilitate Committee discussion regarding community noise issues. No decisions or recommendations are requested at this meeting.

IV. Tethering (Chaining/Tying) of Canines

Staff Resource: Mark Balestra

The City's Animal Care and Control staff will continue discussions related to the tethering (chaining/tying) of canines within the City of Charlotte. No decisions or recommendations are requested at this meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, May 20 at noon in Room 280 *(reschedule)*

Distribution:	Mayor/City Council	Curt Walton, City Manager	Leadership Team	Mac McCarley
	Stephanie Kelly	Rodney Monroe	Jon Hannan	Mark Newbold
	Mark Balestra	Jeanne Peek		

FY2011 Strategic Focus Area Plan - **DRAFT**

"Charlotte will be the safest largest city in America."

The City of Charlotte will be the safest large city in America, ~~a community in which~~ with citizens feeling safe in the areas where they live, work, and spend their leisure time. The Police and Fire Departments have the most direct impact on public safety. Citizens in a safe community have confidence in their public safety agencies to proactively identify and address issues related to crime, disorder and personal safety. ~~Other city departments, such as **Neighborhood & Business Services**, Engineering, Transportation, and Planning also have a role in creating safe and strong neighborhoods.~~

The City Council supports the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's policing strategy which focuses on crime and disorder at the neighborhood level. Police staffing ~~plans~~ promotes high visibility throughout all of the Department's 39 response areas, each of which is served by a Response Area Team. Response Area Teams, led by a Sergeant, are responsible for: ~~crime reduction in their assigned areas and the engagement of the community as partners in keeping their neighborhoods safe. Each team develops enforcement strategies specific to their areas that target both crime and chronic offenders. They work closely with specialized police units to address criminal issues such as gangs, assaults, drugs, and firearms.~~

- crime reduction in their assigned areas
- engagement of the community as partners
- enforcement strategies specific to their area units
- target crime and chronic offenders
- collaborate with specialized units to address gangs, drugs and firearms

~~One of the ways that police build trust and confidence is through a diverse workforce. CMPD~~ The Police Department is committed to recruiting strategies that result in a more diverse workforce that is proactive in community engagement and quality customer service.

Collaboration is critical to making Charlotte the safest large city in America. Police partner with ~~a variety of~~ public and private agencies, ~~in a holistic approach to crime and disorder issues~~ including Neighborhood and Business Services, Engineering, Transportation and Planning. One key partnership is between Police ~~&~~ and **Neighborhood & Business Services.** Police work closely with Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Specialists to address conditions that increase criminal activity and implement strategies that ultimately strengthen and empower neighborhoods. ~~CMPD also partners with other city and county agencies as well as other members of the criminal justice system in a proactive effort to prevent crime before it happens.~~

~~Making Charlotte a safe community also requires strategies to reduce loss of life and property damage.~~ The Fire Department also plays a major role in ~~that~~ the public safety process both through proactive inspections and education programs to prevent fires and injuries and by rapid response to those fires and medical emergencies that ~~do~~ occur. The Fire Department also takes the lead in homeland security preparedness and works with

partners around the Charlotte region to ensure that emergency personnel have the training, equipment and strategies to respond effectively to natural or man-made disasters.

Community Safety

Reduce Crime

CS.1 Focus Area Initiative: Decrease crime throughout Charlotte-Mecklenburg through enforcement and problem solving strategies that target criminal activity and chronic offenders at the neighborhood level

- FY11 Measure: Crime rate per 100,000 population for FBI Uniform Crime Report Part One offense categories (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny, and Arson)

FY11 Target: 5% reduction in crime rate per 100,000 population ~~7% reduction in crime rate per 100,000 population in FY10~~

FY09 Target: 5% reduction in FBI Uniform crime rate per 100,000 population

FY09 Actual: 22.5% reduction

CS.2: Focus Area Initiative: Enhance citizen safety through increased police visibility and engagement of citizens as active partners in crime reduction

- FY11 Measure: Survey ratings on citizen satisfaction with police service and safety in their neighborhoods in November 2009 and November 2010

FY11 Target: Ratings of 7 or above on a 10 point scale on questions related to police services and citizen perception of safety

FY09 Target: Ratings of 7 or above on a 10 point scale on questions related to police services and citizen perception of safety

FY09 Actual: 73% on overall impression of police; 79% on courtesy; 80% on professionalism; 73% on feeling safe in their neighborhoods

- FY11 Measure: **Adopt a Police Facilities Strategic Plan which establishes a building schedule for new police division offices that increase police visibility and accessibility and facilitate the delivery of police services at the neighborhood level**

FY11 Target: TBD - new measure for FY11

CS.3 Focus Area Initiative: Develop recruitment strategies that attract a more diverse applicant base to the Police Department

- FY11 Measure: Number of women and minorities included in applicant pool

FY11 Target: 5% increase in each of next two years

FY09 Target: N/A – new measure in FY10

FY09 Actual: Baseline – 349 women and minorities in applicant pool

Community Safety

CS.4 Focus Area Initiative: Partner with other city and county agencies as well as other members of the criminal justice system in enforcement and prevention efforts that reduce crime and enhance the quality of life in our community

- FY11 Measure: Crime reduction on major city corridors through collaboration with other city agencies
  - FY11 Target: 5% reduction in Uniform Crime Report Part One Crimes (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny and Arson)
  - FY09 Target: N/A - new measure in FY10
- FY11 Measure: Reduction in national and international gangs operating in Charlotte-Mecklenburg
  - FY11 Target: ~~In conjunction with other state and federal law enforcement agencies, identify and dismantle one gang per year~~ **Work with other state and federal law enforcement agencies to make significant progress toward dismantling one gang per year**
  - FY09 Target: N/A - new measure in FY10
- FY11 Measure: **Work with the District Attorney's Office on an information technology plan that includes a case management system with an interface to CMPD's Electronic Case Papering System**
  - FY11 Target: TBD - new measure for FY11

CS.5 Focus Area Initiative: Reduce loss of life and property damage from fires through proactive fire code enforcement and rapid response to working fires

- FY11 Measure: Percent of fire code inspections with an annual state-mandated frequency conducted each year
  - FY11 Target: 85%
  - FY09 Target: 85%
  - FY09 Actual: 90%
- FY11 Measure: Percent of alarms first-due responder companies on scene within 6 minutes of call receipt
  - FY11 Target: 80%
  - FY09 Target: 80%

	FY09 Actual:	81.06%
➢	FY11 Measure:	Percent of fire education programs delivered to CMS third grade classrooms that are within city limits
	FY11 Target:	80%
	FY09 Target:	N/A - new measure in FY10
➢	FY11 Measure:	**Consolidate Fire Administration, Fire Information Technology, Emergency Management, Fire Prevention, and Fire Investigation into one location.**
	FY11 Target:	**Begin construction first quarter of 2011.**

FY2011 Strategic Focus Area Plan - **DRAFT**

"Charlotte will be the safest largest city in America."

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- engagement of the community as partners
- enforcement strategies specific to their area units
- target crime and chronic offenders
- collaborate with specialized units to address gangs, drugs and firearms

The Police Department is committed to recruiting strategies that result in a more diverse workforce that is proactive in community engagement and quality customer service.

Collaboration is critical to making Charlotte the safest large city in America. Police partner with public and private agencies, including Neighborhood and Business Services, Engineering, Transportation and Planning. One key partnership is between Police and Neighborhood & Business Services. Police work closely with Code Enforcement and Neighborhood Specialists to address conditions that increase criminal activity and implement strategies that ultimately strengthen and empower neighborhoods.

The Fire Department also plays a major role in the public safety process both through proactive inspections and education programs to prevent fires and injuries and by rapid response to those fires and medical emergencies that occur. The Fire Department also takes the lead in homeland security preparedness and works with partners around the Charlotte region to ensure that emergency personnel have the training, equipment and strategies to respond effectively to natural or man-made disasters.

Community Safety

Reduce Crime

CS.1 Focus Area Initiative: Decrease crime throughout Charlotte-Mecklenburg through enforcement and problem solving strategies that target criminal activity and chronic offenders at the neighborhood level

- FY11 Measure: Crime rate per 100,000 population for FBI Uniform Crime Report Part One offense categories (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny, and Arson)

FY11 Target: 5% reduction in crime rate per 100,000 population
FY09 Target: 5% reduction in FBI Uniform crime rate per 100,000 population
FY09 Actual: 22.5% reduction

CS.2: Focus Area Initiative: Enhance citizen safety through increased police visibility and engagement of citizens as active partners in crime reduction

- FY11 Measure: Survey ratings on citizen satisfaction with police service and safety in their neighborhoods in November 2009 and November 2010

FY11 Target: Ratings of 7 or above on a 10 point scale on questions related to police services and citizen perception of safety
FY09 Target: Ratings of 7 or above on a 10 point scale on questions related to police services and citizen perception of safety
FY09 Actual: 73% on overall impression of police; 79% on courtesy; 80% on professionalism; 73% on feeling safe in their neighborhoods

- FY11 Measure: Adopt a Police Facilities Strategic Plan which establishes a building schedule for new police division offices that increase police visibility and accessibility and facilitate the delivery of police services at the neighborhood level

FY11 Target: TBD - new measure for FY11

CS.3 Focus Area Initiative: Develop recruitment strategies that attract a more diverse applicant base to the Police Department

- FY11 Measure: Number of women and minorities included in applicant pool

FY11 Target: 5% increase in each of next two years
FY09 Target: N/A – new measure in FY10
FY09 Actual: Baseline – 349 women and minorities in applicant pool

Community Safety

CS.4 Focus Area Initiative: Partner with other city and county agencies as well as other members of the criminal justice system in enforcement and prevention efforts that reduce crime and enhance the quality of life in our community

- FY11 Measure: Crime reduction on major city corridors through collaboration with other city agencies
  - FY11 Target: 5% reduction in Uniform Crime Report Part One Crimes (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny and Arson)
  - FY09 Target: N/A - new measure in FY10
- FY11 Measure: Reduction in national and international gangs operating in Charlotte-Mecklenburg
  - FY11 Target: Work with other state and federal law enforcement agencies to make significant progress toward dismantling one gang per year
  - FY09 Target: N/A - new measure in FY10
- FY11 Measure: Work with the District Attorney's Office on an information technology plan that includes a case management system with an interface to CMPD's Electronic Case Papering System
  - FY11 Target: TBD - new measure for FY11

CS.5 Focus Area Initiative: Reduce loss of life and property damage from fires through proactive fire code enforcement and rapid response to working fires

- FY11 Measure: Percent of fire code inspections with an annual state-mandated frequency conducted each year
  - FY11 Target: 85%
  - FY09 Target: 85%
  - FY09 Actual: 90%
- FY11 Measure: Percent of alarms first-due responder companies on scene within 6 minutes of call receipt
  - FY11 Target: 80%
  - FY09 Target: 80%
  - FY09 Actual: 81.06%
- FY11 Measure: Percent of fire education programs delivered to CMS third grade classrooms that are within city limits
  - FY11 Target: 80%
  - FY09 Target: N/A - new measure in FY10
- FY11 Measure: Consolidate Fire Administration, Fire Information Technology, Emergency Management, Fire Prevention, and Fire Investigation into one location.
  - FY11 Target: Begin construction first quarter of 2011

MECKLENBURG COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY BOARD

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners
And
Charlotte City Council

January 2010

Continuing Appointees:
Marage Blakeney, Chair
Julie Owens, Co-Chair
Joe Marinello
Debra Wideman
Jackie Dienemann

New Appointees:
Andrea Pettit
Patrick Burris
Elizabeth Thornton Trosch
Bea Cote'

County Commissioner Liaison- Jennifer Roberts

Departed during 2009:
Tyyawdi Hands
Wanda Mobley
Margaret Austin
Charlotte Brown-Williams

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of the Domestic Violence Advisory Board

In 1992, Charlotte-Mecklenburg County formed a citizen advisory commission entitled, Domestic Violence Advisory Board (DVAB), with members appointed by the Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), and the City Council to address the systemic problems associated with domestic violence. This body is charged to review and evaluate Mecklenburg County and Charlotte domestic violence services and make appropriate recommendations to the BOCC and Charlotte City Council on the need for additional services to victims of domestic violence. The DVAB also provides vigorous advocacy and works to increase public awareness of domestic violence within the community.

Recommendations

1. **Continue to identify Domestic Violence (DV) as a priority safety and health issue with data on scorecard for Mecklenburg County. This is related to funding to update data in DV Warehouse.**

2. **Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department re-institute Baker 1 project to monitor high-risk DV perpetrators with dedicated police assignments.**

3. **Continue hotel shelter when United Family Services (UFS) shelter is full and families are in imminent danger (a Collaboration of Community Support Services – Women's Commission and United Family Services).**

4. **City Council appoint one more member of DVAB**

5. **Continue support for planning a new DV emergency shelter(s) and transitional housing.**

6. **Sheriff's Department assign a representative to the Domestic Violence Advocacy Council.**

7. **Continue to allow low-income perpetrators are able to "pay" for Abuser Intervention Program with community service.**

8. **Fund or support grant applications to fund a supervised visitation and custody exchange center.**

9. **Look for funding opportunities for**
    a. **DV coordinator for city/county services**

    b. **Supervised visitation/child exchange center**

    c. **North Mecklenburg Magistrate**.

I. INTRODUCTION

As the official Citizen Advisory Commission on domestic violence issues, the Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Board (DVAB) has been charged with reviewing and evaluating Charlotte and Mecklenburg County domestic violence services and making appropriate recommendations to the Charlotte City Council and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the need for additional services for victims of domestic violence and their children. The DVAB was also entrusted with the task of providing vigorous advocacy for domestic violence victims and playing a role in increasing public awareness and education pertaining to the problems and related costs of domestic violence within the community.

In 2005, Mecklenburg County commissioned a comprehensive domestic violence study by Carol Morris, to identify key needs, gaps, and challenges that the community faces with the existing domestic violence service delivery model. Recognizing that a coordinated community response is the most effective, the report's focus was on both improving the County's services and developing a community wide response to this issue.

In January 2006, *Domestic Violence in Charlotte-Mecklenburg: an Overview and Assessment of Our Community Response* was presented to the Board of County Commissioners detailing suggestions of how to define and organize the work and resources, as well as, strategies and ideas to be considered to create a more integrated, effective and predictable community response to domestic violence. The County has moved forward with several of the recommendations contained in the report. It also led to the creation of a domestic violence leadership team that developed a vision statement and consensus definition of domestic violence stating that:

> *We define domestic violence as occurring when one person in an intimate relationship attempts to gain coercive power and control over the other by using physical, emotional/verbal, sexual or material force. This abuse takes place within a system of power and control and is not an isolated incident.*

This group is working to increase both data collection about domestic violence and the public response.

The data reviewed in this report were collected through the City/County Domestic Violence Data Warehouse, the NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission, the NC Coalition against Domestic Violence, and direct contact with multiple agencies. The DVAB also collaborates with local service providers and the Domestic Violence Advocacy Council (DVAC) to evaluate the City/County response to domestic violence, new initiatives underway, and service gaps that have been identified.

II. DATA ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CHARLOTTE/MECKLENBURG COUNTY

A. Criminal Justice Statistics

2009 Domestic Violence Related Homicides
Seven of the sixty five domestic violence-related homicides in North Carolina occurred in Mecklenburg County.

2009 Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) and Davidson Police Department (DPD)

For the period FY 08-09 the CMPD police Criminal Incidence Reports in Selected Crime Categories chosen by the DV Community Leadership Team as trend indicators for DV.

Selected Crime Categories	Total	Totals with at least one domestic relationship listed
Murder	65	16*
Forcible Rape	273	88
Robbery	2850	60*
Aggravated Assault	2450	836
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0
Simple Assault	8065	4751*
Intimidation/Communicating Threats	3701	1280*
Kidnapping	175	135
Forcible Fondling	370	149*
Forcible Sodomy	31	9
Sexual Assault with Object	10	1
Harassing Phone Calls	1794	602*
Stalking	66	28
Violation of Restraining Order	311	293

*Indicates an increase from FY 2007-08

2009 there were 34,764 DV Related 911 calls to CMPD

B. Civil Domestic Violence Protective Orders

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office received 2,743 domestic violence protective orders in 2009 and allocated 5,163 hours to serving 2,416 perpetrators with the orders. The MCSO seized 53 weapons.

C. Impact on Children and Families

Area Mental Health Child Development-Community Policing program (CD-CP)

In 2008, 2323 families utilize this program. Over 41% (963) of these clients were referred for domestic violence. On average 82% of clinical referrals are also referred to Child Protective Services for abuse and neglect. However, this program only has funding for seven of 12 patrol divisions of CMPD.

Child Witness to DV

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services revised its structured intake process. A Child Protective Services assessment is warranted anytime a child is present when violence occurs to evaluate the impact from exposure. In FY08-09 Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services screened 2,426 cases in which domestic violence was a concern and in 152 cases involving 341 children domestic violence was identified as the primary source of child maltreatment.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools last in 2007 (done every two years)

The survey asked two questions regarding domestic violence. The first question referred to the instances of physical abuse committed by a boyfriend or girlfriend. The positive responses increased from 9.9% in 2005 to 10.7% in 2007. Question 2 asked about forced sexual intercourse and this declined in 2007 to 7.2% from 8.7% in 2005.

III. SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY

In Mecklenburg County domestic violence services are provided by multiple agencies that focus either on a specific age group (such as Area Mental Health for child trauma crisis in collaboration with CMPD), ethnic groups (such as Confinanza for Spanish Speaking victims), income level, or services such as shelter, court support for victims, counseling victims or counseling perpetrators. Hospitals also provide screening, counseling, and forensic data collection. Services from some agencies overlap and some are provided in collaboration.

A. Emergency Shelter

In FY09 United Family Services (UFS) Shelter for Battered Women served 617 women and children. The shelter was at its capacity 150 days in 2009. The maximum length of residency is 30 days (with some exceptions being made due to economic conditions); despite there being no transitional housing for battered women and their children. 2,234 women and their children applied but were ineligible for this shelter due to living in another county, not in immediate danger from domestic violence, or other problems were primary such as homelessness. All contacts were referred appropriately for services needed.

In collaboration UFS/ Women's Commission of Community Support Services (WOC/CSS) with BOCC support, UFS provides motel/food/transportation and CSS/WOC provides counseling/case management through a full-time counselor.

Two hundred fifty seven women and children received emergency shelter in hotel rooms. (This is 131.5% increase from the prior fiscal year). Despite the increased access through the collaboration hotel room program, 281 additional women and children were in immediate danger and there was no shelter available in Mecklenburg County that day.

Social workers sought alternative shelter or other means to prevent them returning home to dangerous conditions, which often meant seeking shelter in neighboring counties.

B. Protective Orders

During 2009 United Family Services (UFS) Victim Assistance program assisted 192 victims with filing for domestic violence protective orders in the magistrate's office when court was out of session. Because funding for the program ended in March, 2009, the number of people assisted for the year was reduced by 199.

UFS Volunteers accompanied 3423 victims to court and an additional 864 victims were assisted with documentation completion in the office.

C. Counseling for Victims of Domestic Violence

Counseling services to victims of domestic violence are provided by two entities in our community: CSS/WOC and UFS. CSS/WOC provided counseling services to 1,560 victims and provided general information and referrals to 16,400 individuals. CSS/WOC received 6,971 child related referrals, contacts or other information. The organization provided counseling and support group services to 792 children and teens.

In FY09, UFS provided counseling or support to 749 adult victims (in addition to the consumers residing in the battered women's shelter). UFS provided domestic violence education in English and Spanish, crisis counseling and case management to 1,507 female Mecklenburg County inmates.

D. Legal Services to Victims

Legal services are provided at no or low cost to victims of domestic violence by two organizations: Legal Aid of North Carolina and Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont. Legal Aid of North Carolina received about one DV inquiry per day. That firm only provides services in English. Legal Services for Southern Piedmont provides free services with one counselor for Hispanic Spanish Speaking, low-income women. This service has a long waiting list.

There continues to be a great-unmet need for legal representation for low-income domestic violence victims. Clients need representation for continued restraining order hearings, custody hearings, and divorce or separation suits. UFS obtained funds through

two grants allowing them to hire a full time attorney and a part time paralegal. The attorney's main responsibilities include recruiting and coordinating volunteer pro-bono attorneys, supervising law interns, and supporting victims in court when other legal assistance cannot be obtained. In FY2009, 222 women and children were provided pro-bono legal services on DV issues, custody, financial child support, divorce, and restraining order hearings

E. Batterer Services

Two organizations provide state certified batterer intervention treatment in Mecklenburg County. New Options for Violent Actions (NOVA), a batterer intervention program operated by Community Support Services/Women's Commission screened 571 clients and 914 clients served in accountability groups. The Be There Group/IMPACT (a new service established in 2007) served 57 clients in accountability groups.

IV. Advocacy and Public Awareness

Area hospitals and schools have promoted early DV detection and screening. Carolinas Medical Center (CMC) Main maintains a 24/7 DV response program comprised of social workers and volunteers. Presbyterian/Novant facilities have DV trained social workers in all Emergency Departments. All Novant and CMC hospitals have SANE registered nurses (trained in collecting forensic evidence) and UFS volunteers who collect evidence and respond to rape victims. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and UNCC have developed a dating violence training for staff to identify and refer students. Through the curriculum, students, receive one class in 8th grand and one in 9th grade on healthy dating relationships.

Partnerships were established with Adam's Outdoor and DV agencies to create multiple billboards to promote DV awareness. Several trainings by UFS and CSS/WOC were conducted in collaboration with UNCC. The UFS/WOC partnership expanded DV counseling to North Mecklenburg. Their partnership also places women and children in hotel shelter when the Battered Women's Shelter is full. The UFS and CSS/WOC formed the Domestic Violence Speakers Bureau (DVSB) as a collaborative initiative. They maintain a list of trained speakers and professional DV counselors and experts of DVAC with each speaker's area of expertise.

The DVAB supported and participated in events sponsored by the Domestic Violence Advocacy Council. These included monthly "lunch and learn" seminars open to the public, domestic violence homicide awareness marches in uptown Charlotte after each DV related homicide, a Candlelight Vigil during domestic violence awareness month and the Fourth Annual Domestic Violence Memorial Tree service in uptown Charlotte in December.

The DVAB maintained communication with the Domestic Violence Leadership Team in support of its goal of building a community that does not tolerate domestic violence.

DVAB also collaborates and supports the efforts of the Women's Summit to increase public awareness and their conference on DV in the workplace.

V. Policy and Service Changes

There were several changes in policies and services. A law for a DV Fatality Review Team to begin in Mecklenburg County in 2010 passed in the State to identify new best practices.

Two UFS grants support a full time attorney and part time paralegal to recruit lawyers to represent DV victims on a pro bono basis, supervise law interns, and represent DV victims. 222 women were represented this year through this effort.

The UFS, CSS/WOC, and F&Y Services grant supported transitional services for 88 victims. With Adams Outdoor this grant also provided public education through billboards.

The Charlotte Housing Authority has a new policy that will not evict DV victims for their partner's behavior. The CHA may evict a perpetrator for their behavior.

The Homeless Services Network Database increased linking of information between domestic violence and homeless service agencies (with client consent) and improved reporting performance.

NOVA experienced a significant savings in security and personnel by consolidating five evening groups into other existing meetings. NOVA is now offering treatment services to indigent offenders who complete 144 hours of community service in lieu of regular fees. NOVA has discontinued after care and is increasing parenting education.

VI. Recommendations

A. Continue to identify Domestic Violence (DV) as a priority safety and health issue with data on scorecard for Mecklenburg County. This is related to funding to update data in DV Warehouse.

We strongly support continued efforts to develop and maintain the domestic violence data warehouse to bring together comprehensive, timely data to track domestic violence service needs and agency responses. This is also a resource for the priority scorecard.

B. Police re-institute Baker 1 project to monitor high-risk DV perpetrators with dedicated police assignments.

This program effectively removed high-risk DV perpetrators from the community when they committed a variety of offenses simultaneously increasing safety for victims.

C. Continue hotel shelter when United Family Services (UFS) shelter is full and families are in imminent danger (a Collaboration of Community Support Services – Women's Commission and United Family Services)

The dire need for this is related to the inadequate size of the battered women's shelter in Mecklenburg County.

D. City Council add one seat on the Domestic Violence Advisory Board. Include DVAB in reviewing applications and considering their recommendations for appointments.

In 2008 the County requested a Joint Ad Hoc Committee to review the structure and function of the DV Advisory Board, the Women's Commission Advisory Board and the Shelter Advisory Board. The report was presented to BOCC January 21, 2009. The recommendations to dissolve the Shelter Advisory Board and create a Women's Advisory Board have been carried out. The recommendations for increasing the DVAB to 12 members and to have DVAB review applications and that their recommendations be considered in appointments have not been carried out. We now have 11 seats, with 6 from the county, 2 from the Mayor and 3 from the city council. If you add one seat, there will be parity with 6 from the county and 6 from the Mayor/City Council.

E. Continue support for planning a new DV emergency shelter(s) and transitional housing

There are 29 beds in the only battered women's shelter in Mecklenburg County and no transitional housing. The UFS has a strategic plan to build an expanded shelter with 80 beds and has begun the silent phase of a capital campaign to build this shelter on land now obtained. The completion date is scheduled to be spring of 2011. They also have plans to erect a 20-bed facility in North Mecklenburg County.

F. Sheriff's Department assign a representative to DVAC

This would provide valuable communication and support for the DV community.

G. Low-income perpetrators are able to "pay" for Abuser Intervention Program with community service.

Due to the economic downturn, more perpetrators are choosing jail due to not being able to afford Abuser Intervention treatment that could assist them to change their behavior.

H. Look for funding opportunities for

1. DV coordinator for city/county services

The multiple agencies meeting the complex needs of people of all ages who are victims of domestic violence would benefit from strategic direction addressing the entire

issue with one coordinator, as recommended in the 2006 report to the BOCC. It is recommended that the coordinator position be funded by all domestic violence agencies sharing oversight of the position and power.

2. Supervised visitation/child exchange center

Many DV acts occur during child exchanges, causing trauma for child and victim.

3. North Mecklenburg Magistrate

Traveling to Charlotte for a restraining order is a barrier for many North Mecklenburg victims.

VII. Conclusion

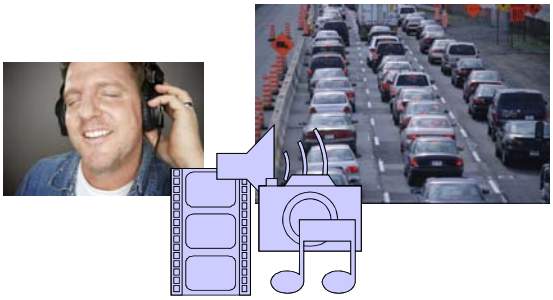
In conclusion, the city and county have supported the strategies to end domestic violence in the 2006 report commissioned by the BOCC, such as the combining of several small agencies into Community Support Services, the continuing expansion of the Commission on Women, the support to expand emergency shelter using hotel rooms, and the consideration of a proposal for a trial magistrate in North Mecklenburg.

We thank the City Council and Board of County Commissioners for these efforts. This year's recommendations continue with the priorities set in the 2006 report and suggest increasing child and victim safety through support of a safe haven for child visitation and exchange. We strongly support continued efforts to develop and maintain the domestic violence data warehouse to bring together comprehensive, timely data to track domestic violence service needs and agency responses. Moving forward on these recommendations will continue the progress we have made to help make Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, as a whole, a safer place to live and work.

Introduction to Noise

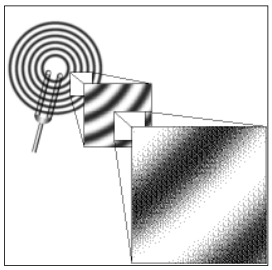
Presented by
Joy Houston, Au.D.

What is sound?
What is noise?



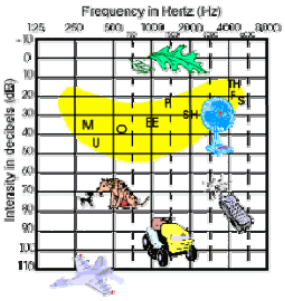
Requirements For Sound...

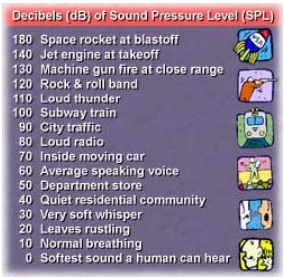
- Source of vibration
- Source of energy
- A medium
- A receiver



Graphic from Jay Rose website at http://www.dplay.com/book/sample.html

What is loud?





Measurement of Sound

Weighting Networks in Sound Level Meters

"A" Weighting Network

- Response curve is similar to sensitivity of human ear
- Biased against low frequencies
- Used to estimate risk of hearing loss in humans

"C" Weighting Network

- Filters out very little (only some very low frequencies)
- Noise has a significant low frequency component if C-weighted measurements are substantially higher than A-weighted values
- C-scale also used to estimate HPD effectiveness

Weighting Networks in Sound Level Meters

"**B" Weighting Network** - Louder sounds

"**D" Weighting Network** – High level aircraft

Doubling the Noise Source…

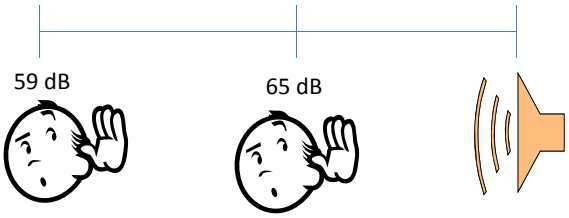
- **A combination of two different noise sources of equal loudness will increase the intensity by 3dB**

90 dB

93 dB

Inverse Square Law

- **Doubling the distance from a sound source decreases intensity by 6 dB.**



Questions?

Dr. Joy Houston
Drjoyhouston@aol.com
John E. Sexton & Associations, Inc.
336-834-3112

"Take Home" Messages about Sound

Requirements for Sound: source of vibration, source of energy, medium, and receiver. All these components are required in order for sound to exist.

Doubling the sound pressure (SPL) increases the intensity by 3 decibels.

Doubling the distance from the sound source reduces the intensity by 6 decibels.

Table of sound levels	
Sound Sources Examples with distance	**Sound Pressure Level dBSPL**
Jet aircraft, 50 m away	140
Threshold of pain	130
Threshold of discomfort	120
Chainsaw, 1 m distance	110
Disco, 1 m from speaker	100
Diesel truck, 10 m away	90
Curbside of busy road, 5 m	80
Vacuum cleaner, distance 1 m	70
Conversational speech, 1 m	60
Average home	50
Quiet library	40
Quiet bedroom at night	30
Background in TV studio	20
Rustling leaves in the distance	10
Threshold of hearing	0

POLICE

"Tethering Phase II"

Community Safety Committee
April 15, 2010

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CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Tethering Defined

Chaining or *tethering* refers to the practice of securing a dog to a stationary object as a means of keeping the animal confined. This does not refer to periods when animals are being walked on a leash.

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CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Where We Left Off

- Review our current ordinance and provide recommendations that include new tethering restrictions

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Objectives

- Ensure adequate confinement of domestic dogs to provide community safety to our citizens.
- Develop minimum standards for the restraint of dogs that increases their quality of life through tethering regulations.

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Tethering Regulation Considerations

- Maximum weight of chain or tether device
- Minimum length of chain or tether device
- Tethering dogs in a tangle free environment
- Utilizing collars and harnesses approved for dog containment
- Tethering no closer than 5 feet to property boundaries or fence lines
- Swivels and hardware used in tethering dogs
- Creating minimum confinement areas for dogs maintained outdoors

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Weight of Chains

- Prohibit the use of excessive logging chains
- Establish a maximum gauge chain, cable or other similar device approved to withstand pulling or breakage
- Ensure adequate durability to contain dogs based on their size and strength

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Length of Chains or Tether

- Establish a minimum length of 10 feet for a chain or similar tether device
- Cable Runners, Zip Lines or T Runners are an acceptable tethering containment device, and shall also extend a minimum of 10 feet in length
- Allow sufficient length and access to food, water and shelter

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Tethering in a Tangle Free Area

- Dogs should be tethered in a manner to avoid any encumbrances that may cause entanglement or injury, including that of another tethered dogs
- The objective would be to create a tether diameter, free from other trees, shrubs, poles, tables, grills or any other permanent or movable objects that may cause entanglement or depravation to shelter from the elements or food/water
- Note: Available land, lot size or obstructions could create challenges to property owners where consideration should be given

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Collars and Harnesses

- Prohibit the usage of chain material as a collar
- Dogs shall be attached to a tether by means of a collar or harness specifically designed for control and containment, and that will prevent escape
- Collars and Harnesses shall be properly fitted to eliminate risk of injury to the dog
- Rope, pinch collars, belts, choke chains or other non-collar or harness devices should be prohibited

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CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Tethering Near Property Lines

- Keeping tethered dogs away from existing fences and property lines are essential in avoiding accidental hanging and nuisance issues
- Dogs shall be tethered no closer than 5 feet to any property line or physical fencing
- Keeping tethered dogs away from property lines allows the free movement and enjoyment of families living on adjoining property and minimizes disputes

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Swivels and Hardware

- The hardware that attaches a tether to the permanent object to the dogs collar or harness, should be sufficient and durable to withstand breakage from the pulling and normal wear from the dog being contained
- The selection of hardware should be based on the size and breed of the dog being contained
- It is important that swivels are used on each end of the tether to prevent twisting and shortening of the tether being used. This will prevent accidental choking incidents

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CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Minimum Outdoor Confinement Areas

- To prevent dogs from being kept outdoors in airline crates, boxes or other small enclosures, we should consider minimum outdoor confinement areas. This provides sufficient room for free movement, and access to food and water.
- This prevents the overcrowding of housing multiple large dogs inside of standard 10X10 kennel

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CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Minimum Outdoor Confinement Areas

- Suggested confinement areas per dog:
- > 50 pounds of estimated body weight, provide 50 sq ft of space
- 51-100 pounds of estimated body weight, provide 100 sq ft of space
- > 101 pounds of estimated body weight, provide 150 sq ft of space
- Note: Indoor crate training is not prohibited

CHARMECK.ORG

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Building Partners to Build Fences

- The ACC will continue to build partnerships with organizations that assist our citizens in home improvement and fence building projects for the confinement and enhanced quality of life of their dogs.
- Organizations may include:
- Coalition to Unchain Dogs
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gi3gwiWFvoA
- http://www.unchaindogs.net/
- Hands on Charlotte
- http://handsoncharlotte.org/HomePage/index.php/aboutus/aboutus.htm
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts

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Summary

Noted advantages to tethering restrictions:

- Decreased neck injuries / incidents of hanging
- Dogs less likely to become victims of attack from loose animals and cruelty from humans
- *Less likely to bite[1] or territorial aggression
- Stronger attachment to people, friendlier, happier
- Increased quality of life
- Decreased boredom

*1 Center for Disease Control 1994

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Questions?

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SAFETY ISSUES REGARDING CHAINED DOGS

Neya Warren - Coalition to Unchain Dogs, Charlotte Chapter Director
charlotte@unchaindogs.net; 704-491-9792

-According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), nearly five million people each year suffer from dog bites and chained dogs are 2.8 times more likely to bite.
-Chained dogs often become territorial over the small plot of land they inhabit, causing them to be aggressive.
-Chained dogs are an "attractive nuisance," similar to swimming pools.
-"Attractive nuisance" = an instrumentality or condition which may reasonably be apprehended to be a source of danger to *children and that attract children to it.* --Black's Law Dictionary
-Just as swimming pools must be fenced-in to prevent injury or death to children, so should dogs.
-Chained dogs are often linked to dog fighting, which is a problem in Charlotte.
-"Dogs who are forced to live their lives at the end of a chain suffer from severe psychological, emotional and behavioral effects." --Shelby Marlo, Animal Behaviorist

"We passed this ordinance for two main reasons (1) the safety of our citizens and (2) for the humane treatment of our animals. Our records indicated that 51 percent of our dog bites were from dogs [who] were confined on chains or had been chained and broken loose...I observed that most of our dogs [kept] chained were receiving inhumane treatment."
---Elaine Modlin, animal control officer, Laurinburg, NC

Some of the incidents of chained dogs attacking people in North Carolina (see attached news articles):

- Sept. 29, 2009 – *Charlotte, NC*: 17-year-old attacked by a dog who got off its chain.
- August 15, 2009 – *Sylva, NC*: 7-year-old boy suffers 60 bites to his neck, throat and face by a dog who broke free from its chain. Boy can't talk b/c of punctured voice box.
- March 11, 2009 – *Huntersville, NC*: Woman bitten by emaciated dog "dragging a big chain that was tight around its neck." Dog was shot and killed by an officer.
- February 13, 2009 – *Kannapolis, NC*: 6-year-old boy attacked on face and neck by a dog that was chained up but got loose.
- October 22, 2008 – *Gastonia, NC*: Man bitten more than 50 times by a dog who got loose from his chain. The dog had previously attacked someone visiting the dog owner's home.
- April 14, 2008 – *Charlotte, NC*: 24-year-old woman receives 500 stitches after a dog that was usually tied up to a tree got free and attacked her.
- February 7, 2008 – *Concord, NC*: Chained-up Rottweiler attacked a 6-year-old boy, leaving him with injuries that required hours of surgery. Owner shot a killed the dog.
- December 9, 2007 – *Charlotte, NC*: 10-year-old boy and his cousin bitten when chained pit bull breaks free and attacks. The boy required 10 stitches in his arms.
- September 27, 2007 – *Lincoln County, NC*: 2-year-old boy **mauled to death** by a chained-up German Shepherd mix. The boy's body was discovered tangled up in the dog's chain.
- March 9, 2007: *Durham, NC*: 3-year-old girl hospitalized after being attacked by a chained dog in her backyard.
- March 8, 2006: *Lumberton, NC*: 6-year-old bitten twice by a chained dog. The dog was later found dead, having been shot 8 times and stabbed repeatedly with a pitch fork.
- May 6, 2005: *Knightdale, NC*: A 5-year old and a 4th grader are attacked by a dog who broke free from his chain inside a fenced-in yard.
- February 28, 2005: *Bessemer City, NC*: 5-year-old girl requires reconstructive surgery after being attacked by a chained dog. The little girl had gone over to the dog to pet him.
- July 21, 2004 – Charlotte, NC: 7-year-old boy attacked by chained dog near Clanton Road. Boy needed plastic surgery to mend the cuts on his face and scalp. Boy's parents beat the dog off of him. The dog later died.
- June 4, 2004: *Cleveland County, NC*: 7-year-old boy airlifted to CMC-Charlotte and in critical condition after his neighbor's chained dog latched on to his neck and would not let go.
- March 13, 2004: *Bridgeton, NC*: 3-year-old and 8-year-old attacked by chained dog in neighbor's yard.
- January 14, 2004: *Harnett County, NC*: 3-year-old boy **mauled to death** by chained-up dog. The boy's body was found lying next to 2 chained dogs – officers had to shoot one of the dogs and pepper spray the other dog to get to the child's body.
- August 4, 2003: *Winston-Salem, NC*: 8-year-old boy uses a slingshot to shoot rocks and marbles at a chained dog. Dog breaks off chain and attacks boy.

WSOCTV.com

Officer Shoots Pit Bull That Attacked Teen

To contact the reporter, e-mail Tim Caputo.

Posted: 6:11 pm EDT September 29, 2009

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- A 17-year-old girl was rushed to a local hospital after being attacked by a pit bull in a Charlotte park.

The teen was walking in Southside Park near Remount Road when the dog attacked her Tuesday afternoon.

Police believe the pit bull got off its chain from a nearby yard and wandered into the park.

Witnesses said the teen had bit marks on her arms and scratches on her chest. She was taken to a hospital, but her injuries are not life-threatening.

People who were in the park saw the attack and jumped in.

"I ran up the hill and grabbed a two-by-four. I hit it the first time and the dog didn't let go. That's why I hit it two more times, and it finally let go," said Jerrell McDaniel.

Police were called to the scene. They said the dog tried to attack an officer.

That officer opened fire, killing the dog.

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7-year-old western NC boy bitten 60 times by dog

by Associated Press

Posted on August 15, 2009 at 4:52 PM

Updated Sunday, Nov 1 at 4:59 PM

SYLVA, N.C. -- The mother of a 7-year-old boy says her son was mauled by a dog and suffered 60 bites to his neck, throat and face and can't talk because of a punctured voice box.

The Asheville Citizen-Times reported Sunday that Dalton Mathis remained in critical but stable condition at Mission Hospital, where officials weren't available for further comment Sunday evening.

Jennifer Roberts says Dalton arrived home from school Thursday afternoon, dropped off his book bag and went back outside before a 100-pound Shar-Pei-chow mix attacked him. Roberts says the dog had broken free from its chain.

State Highway Patrol troopers and Jackson County sheriff's deputies tried to keep the dog contained for animal control officers before the deputies had to shoot it.

Roberts says Dalton will need several surgeries.

Add another comment

WSOCTV.com

Huntersville Woman Doesn't Blame Dog Shot By Officers For Biting

Posted: 12:16 pm EDT March 11, 2009Updated: 5:38 pm EDT March 11, 2009

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. -- A Huntersville woman attacked by a dog that officers were forced to shoot said it wasn't the animal's fault.

An Animal Control officer shot the Rottweiler as it clung to Sharis Van Sciver's hand early Wednesday.

Homeowners in the Tanners Creek neighborhood had called Animal Control when they saw the large but emaciated dog going house to house as children were waiting for their school buses.

RAW INTERVIEW: Woman Describes How Dog Attack, Shooting Unfolded

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Van Sciver said she saw it dragging a big chain that was tight around its neck.

Van Sciver has experience as a dog trainer, and because she'd worked around dogs all her life, she decided to try to help the dog while waiting for Animal Control to arrive. She said she gave the dog a bowl of food to lure it away from the bus stop while Huntersville police stood yards away.

Police said they had reports that the dog had been aggressive on several occasions.

"Officer Almond, the entire time, had his shotgun trained on the dog because you never know," Van Sciver said.

Then there was a sound in the distance.

"I sort of went to turn around and see what was going on and the dog just clamped down," she said.

Van Sciver said she doesn't blame the dog for his quick reaction, but she knew she was in trouble.

"I just remember thinking to myself, 'Don't pull because you will tear yourself on the teeth,'" she said.

But the officer reacted quickly.

"The next thing I knew, shots rang out. I hear the dog scream once, and then I saw him go down, and then there were a few more shots," Van Sciver said.

Huntersville Police Captain Michael Kee said the officer took the only action he could have taken to save the victim.

"Any time we have to do this to an animal, it's not an easy thing," he said.

Neighbor Mike Long agreed with Kee's assessment.

"The officer had no choice but to unload a shotgun into the dog and put it down," he said.

Van Sciver was taken to the hospital. Several layers of bandages now cover the wound on her hand. She said she's thankful for the officer's quick thinking.

"I am grateful he did what he did," she said.

Officers are still looking for the owner of that dog. Neighbors said it had been roaming the area for several months.

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WSOCTV.com

Kannapolis Boy, Mother Attacked By Dog

Posted: 12:05 pm EST February 13, 2009Updated: 5:35 pm EST February 13, 2009

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. -- A 6-year-old boy is recovering after a neighbor's dog attacked him outside his home in Kannapolis.

Marcela Brado said her two boys were playing in the yard with a small dog when a larger dog showed up Wednesday afternoon. Police said the bigger dog attacked Brian Brado on his face and neck.

His brother ran inside for help, and when their mother tried to rescue the boy, she was bitten several times.

"I used my hands to open the dog's mouth. I could not get the dog off of his arm, and I was very scared," Marcelo Brado said.

The dog is being held at the Rowan County Animal Control Center. The dog's owner, Nina Barkley, is charged with having a dangerous dog that attacked an unprovoked person.

Police said the dog was chained up but got loose.

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WSOCTV.com

Man Bitten More Than 50 Times By Gastonia Dog

To comment on this story, e-mail Ken Lemon.

Posted: 6:34 pm EDT October 22, 2008Updated: 11:13 pm EDT October 22, 2008

GASTONIA, N.C. -- Michael Quinn showed Eyewitness News just some of the 60-plus bite marks he suffered in a tug of war for his life.

"That dog was going nowhere once he had tasted my blood," Quinn said.

Tuesday afternoon, Quinn was mowing the lawn at a house on West Davidson Street in Gastonia when he noticed Zeus, a pit bull in the neighbor's yard, had snapped his chain.

In an instant, the dog pounced.

"And took me down backwards on my right hand side, and then it was on," Quinn said.

The dog latched onto his leg and hip. Quinn struggled to drag the dog to the front of the house.

"To where someone might hear my calls for help," he explained. "For every foot I drug him, he drug me back half a foot."

He said they fought for 10 minutes with the dog trying to get at his neck. He then hit the dog with a tool.

"The flathead screwdriver didn't make no difference what so ever," he said.

He was able to wrap the dog's chain around a pole long enough to retreat to a tool shed. The dog snapped at a loose board there.

"I could see his eyes, and every time he locked eyes with mine, he was trying so hard to get inside the tool shed," Quinn said.

Zeus left only to chase the man working with him back into his car.

Quinn said Zeus snapped at police and even tried to get at a fire truck when firemen tried to help.

Finally, someone rolled their car onto Zeus' chain and Animal Control grabbed the dog.

Yatavis Mitchell, who lives nearby, said the incident frightens her.

"It should be put down because it's a fighter. If it was back out here it would take somebody else," she said.

The dog's owner said hearing about what happened was like a bad dream all over again. He is still paying the fines for when the dog attacked someone visiting his house. He said his heart goes out to Quinn, but he said he will have his dog fixed, erect fences and do anything he needs to do to bring Zeus home again.

- **WEB EXCLUSIVE:** Gastonia Man Talks About Fighting Dog For His Life

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Woman Trying To Protect Dog Attacked By Pit Bull

To comment on this story, e-mail Susan Tran.

Posted: 4:20 pm EDT April 14, 2008Updated: 5:46 pm EDT April 14, 2008

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- It took 500 stitches to put 24-year-old Amanda Mazza back together after a pit bull attacked her in the Wilmore neighborhood Friday afternoon.

"It bit into me all the way to the bone," she said. "That dog was trying to kill me."

Mazza said she was walking her dog, Bobbie, down Southwood Avenue as she usually does when suddenly the 60-pound pit bull came after her.

"I turned around and I could see the pit bull running towards me. I dropped my purse, picked up my dog," she said.

BULLETIN BOARD: Share Your Thoughts On Pit Bulls

A woman who lives nearby said she had seen the pit bull tied up to a tree. It broke the leash and then attacked Mazza.

"It took another bite at me and I took another step," she said. "It got me four or five times (before) I got to a porch."

She was rushed to the hospital where her dad, Joe Mazza, said three surgeons worked for hours to stitch up her wounds.

"Her whole body -- just a big stitch. It's like someone took a chain to her," he said.

Now that Mazza is home and on the mend, she said her biggest concern was keeping her dog safe.

"I didn't let him get one single bite. I love him too much," she said.

Authorities said the dog that attacked Mazza has a history with Animal Control. They said last year it got loose and attacked another dog, and there have been numerous complaints about its barking.

The owner, Doris Harding, has been fined, but Animal Control officers are investigating the incident and they'll determine if a dangerous dog hearing is necessary. That's when they'll decide what will happen to the dog – whether it will be returned to its owner or destroyed.

- **RELATED STORY:** Pit Bull Attacks, Seriously Injures Woman

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6-Year-old in Hospital After Dog Attack

www.wcnc.com

February 7, 2008 - CONCORD, NC - -- A chained up Rottweiler attacked a 6-year-old boy Wednesday, leaving him with injuries that required hours of surgery.

Cabarrus County deputies say the dog did not belong to Jimmy Smith, the man taking care of it. Smith, whose yard is filled with dogs chained to posts, invited neighbors over for a birthday party Wednesday. Deputies say Caleb Setzer, 6, came with his family and approached the Rottweiler while the adults were inside.

That's when deputies say the 120-pound dog attacked the little boy. The aftermath is caught on a 911 tape.

"A dog is attacking a child," an unidentified woman yells.

Setzer and the woman are screaming. The 911 operator keeps her calm.

"I need you to stop screaming, ma'am," the 911 operator said.

"Is he breathing?" the operator asked. "Is he breathing, is he breathing?" the woman asks other people in the house. "He's breathing," she said.

Setzer has head, face, neck and leg wounds. He was listed in serious condition following hours of surgery at Northeast Medical Center. His injuries are reportedly not life threatening.

A firefighter who responded to the 911 call says there will be scars and stitches.

As for the Rottweiler, deputies say Smith was watching it for a friend who apparently didn't want, wouldn't or couldn't take it back when Smith tried to return it.

"Just don't go near the dog until we get there, ok?" the operator said.

"OK," the woman responded.

But deputies say Smith shot and killed the Rottweiler before they got there.

The Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office is still looking into whether charges will be filed as a result of what happened.

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TOP STORIES

12/09/2007 12:29 PM

Pit bull attacks two in Charlotte

By: Aaron Mesmer

CHARLOTTE – A pit bull attack has sent two people to the hospital; one of them a 10-year-old boy. This comes less than a week after an 80-year old man was attacked and saved by a CMPD officer.
The dog got free of its confinement in the backyard of a west Charlotte home. Isaiah Crockett said he and some friends were playing with the dog when it broke free from its chain. It left gashes in Crockett's arms, his back and backside.

"My cousin and myself, we ran outside and we started beating the dog to try to get him off of him, we were kicking him and beating him and he just wouldn't let go," said Isaiah's mother Arisha Coleman.

The owner of the dog wasn't home to comment.

The dog eventually let go, then turned on Isaiah's relative, biting through her lower leg.
Earlier this week, the 80-year old man was attacked by his family's pit bull in his own backyard. He was left with 32 stitches, a broken finger and a number of bruises.

Isaiah escaped with 10 stitches in his arms, which his cousin's wounds were too deep to stitch up at the time.

The owner of the dog wasn't home to comment.

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WSOCTV.com

Family Grieves While Investigation Continues Into Lincoln County Child's Death After Mauling

Posted: 5:45 pm EDT September 26, 2007Updated: 6:29 pm EDT September 27, 2007

LINCOLN COUNTY, N.C. -- The Lincoln County family of a 2-year-old who died late Tuesday after being mauled by dogs spent Wednesday trying to come to terms with the senseless death.

Steve Gilroy said his grandson's best friend was a Boxer. He said Karson Gilroy probably thought the two German Shepherds chained in a neighbor's backyard were friendly.

Karson wandered away from his grandfather's house on Tuesday afternoon. Gilroy said his brother and some other young relatives were watching the child.

"He was big enough to go out by himself. I guess he just wanted to go out and play," he said.

But in minutes the child had reached the dogs in the woods nearby. It was more than an hour later that rescuers found him tangled in the chain with the dogs standing over him.

Now those dogs are in Lincoln County Animal Control's custody. The owner voluntarily gave the dogs up. They will be euthanized in 10 days.

Workers said one was terrified when they picked him up. They said they've never had any complaints against the animals.

Rescuers are also somber after the tragedy. Late Tuesday two of them had to be taken to the hospital and treated for stress, but both are OK.

Meanwhile, sheriff's investigators continue to look into the child's death. They said they'll give the family a few days to grieve before digging deeper.

Detectives hope to give a report to the district attorney's office at the end of the week. The district attorney will determine what, if any, charges will be filed.

- **SURVEY:** Should Dogs That Attack Be Put Down?
- **RELATED STORY:** Boy Found Mauled Dies At Hospital

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Toddler Attacked by Pit Bull

http://rdu.news14.com

March 9, 2007, DURHAM, N.C. -- A 3-year-old girl in Durham was hospitalized Tuesday after being attacked by a pit bull in her backyard.

Authorities say even though the dog was chained, the girl got too close to the dog. She suffered injuries to the face and head.

Fortunately, a man working at a home across the street came to her rescue. "Actually, I just ran up and kicked the dog first and then I grabbed the post," Jaimie Gunter said, "Just do what you got to do."

"I believe he's a hero," said eyewitness Frank McMillan. "He jumped the fence. He risked his own life. The dog could have got him. He wasn't thinking that. He was just thinking about saving the child."

Now a community organization wants to ban dog chaining in Durham and Orange counties. The Coalition to Unchain Dogs says it is a cruel practice and causes dogs to be more aggressive.

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6-Year-Old Attacked by Dog

www.robesonian.com

March 8, 2006, LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA - Authorities say the family of a 6-year-old victim of a dog attack took revenge on the family pet by killing it, shooting it at least eight times and then stabbing it with a pitch fork.

The victim, Alexus Nance, was reportedly bitten at least twice Thursday afternoon by a husky-chow mix at her grandparents' house on Lee Britt Road, according to sheriff's Detective Sgt. Kathy Torre.

The child underwent surgery at Southeastern Regional Medical Center for injuries to her face and head. She has been released from the medical center.

"She had to have surgery on her jaw area, and she had a cut on her left eye lid," Torre said.

The girl's grandfather, John Britt, reported the incident to sheriff's investigators about 5 p.m. Britt told authorities that the dog was chained at his home when the girl was attacked.

The family described the girl as "a lover of animals," Torre said.

Authorities think a family member may have killed the dog, but they are not sure who.

Buddy Britt, the girl's uncle, reported he found the dog dead with multiple gunshot and stab wounds Thursday night after returning from the hospital. Buddy Britt said there were two other dogs at the home that were missing.

The family could not be reached for comment.

A Robeson County animal control officer picked up the dead dog so that it could be checked for rabies, the sheriff's report said. That involves removing the animal's brain and sending it to a lab in Raleigh.

Authorities are investigating the incident, but it is unclear if charges will be brought against whoever killed the dog.

Robeson County animal cruelty officer Katherine Floyd said state law allows a person to kill an animal if it is attacking a human or livestock. But Floyd said that's typically when a dog has wandered onto someone else's property.

"I'm not sure at this point whether any laws have been violated," she said. "I've never had to deal with a case like this."

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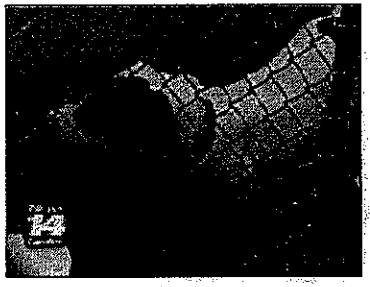
TOP STORIES

05/06/2005 05:16 PM

Authorities file charges against pit bull owner

By: News 14 Carolina Staff



Authorities have filed misdemeanor charges against the owner of a pit bull police said attacked two elementary school students in Knightdale.

Terrell Black is charged with maintaining an animal that attacks.

Animal control officers have also designated the dog as dangerous.

Black has ten days to appeal that ruling.

Terrell Black said the dog was chained in his mother's fenced yard, but the dog escaped.

Investigators said the dog attacked Thah Tyndal, 5, and 4th grader Asia Brantley at a bus stop Tuesday.

The bus driver pulled up during the attack and helped fight off the dog.

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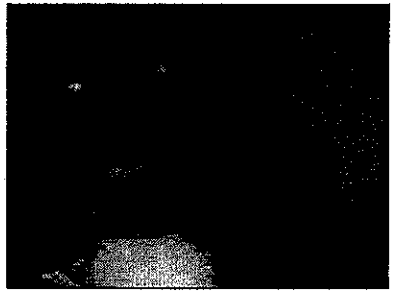
Dog Leaves Scars on Five-Year-Old's Face

www.news14charlotte.com

February 28, 2005, BESSEMER CITY, N.C. -- A 5-year-old girl needed reconstructive surgery after she was attacked by a dog Saturday morning in Bessemer City.



Kendra Odums was bitten on her face, where she now has numerous scars. Her family wants the dog, a chow chow named Bear, to be put down.

Bear's owners said they feel bad about what happened, but they said the dog was chained up when Kendra went to pet him. They also said Bear deserves to live because he has never attacked anyone before.

Gaston County's Office of Animal Control will determine the dog's fate at a special hearing.

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Pit Bull Attacks 7-Year-Old

www.News14Charlotte.com

JULY 21, 2004, CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- A 7-year-old boy is in fair condition after being attacked by a pit bull Tuesday night on Seaman Drive near Clanton Road. Police said Willie Moore Jr. wandered into a fenced-in yard where the dog was chained up. The dog attacked him, biting him on the head. Moore's parents beat the dog to free their son. The dog later died.

Neighbor Wanda Fleming said the dog was usually quiet but always seemed capable of attacking. Police said Willie Moore Jr. wandered into a fenced-in yard where the dog was chained up. "He was pretty quiet. I have never seen him approach anyone," Fleming said. "One day when I was out, he noticed me but he stopped for a moment. But I knew that if you were to approach him in any indirect way, he would retaliate."

Moore's father said his son will need plastic surgery to mend cuts on his face and scalp. The dog's owner will be cited for not having a current city license or proof of a rabies vaccination.

The dog's body has been sent to Raleigh to be checked for rabies.

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Dog Owner Stunned by Vicious Attack; Dog Attacked a 7-year-old Boy in Cleveland County

www.news14charlotte.com

June 4, 2004 EARL, N.C. -- A 7-year-old Cleveland County boy is in critical condition after a neighbor's dog attacked him Thursday morning. Paramedics had to airlift Brandon Ivie from his home near Earl to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

Around 8:45 a.m., Ivie was playing with his neighbor's dog, which was on a chain. Ivie's mother said her son got too close and that the dog grabbed him around the neck with its teeth. She said she was also bitten when she tried to free her son from the dog's grasp. The dog latched on to Brandon Ivie's throat and would not let go. CMC officials said Ivie had lost a large amount of blood by the time he arrived at the hospital.

The dog, a 6-year-old Akita named Boo Boo, is owned by the Adaway family. The Adaways said they were shocked when Boo Boo attacked. Kimberly Adaway said she usually keeps Boo Boo on the running line near their trampoline. Thursday morning, screams coming from that part of the yard brought her running. When Adaway reached Boo Boo, she found him with his jaws locked down around the boy's throat. "He had latched onto his neck from the back," she said. Adaway hit her dog until he loosened his grip, and Ivie's mother pulled her son away.

Kimberly Adaway said she will be more cautious about other people approaching her dogs. Ivie's playmates filled in the details of the attack. Ivie "was running toward the dog and slid and hit the dog," Adaway was told. "And the dog bit him."

Adaway said she has seen Ivie play with Boo Boo before and even hug him. Boo Boo "loves kids and anyone who comes toward him," she said. "I'm assuming he was scared of him."

The Adaways, who have four dogs, said they did a lot of research on Akitas when they got one. They even got a book from the Cleveland County Public Library that said Akitas make perfect baby sitters because they are so good and gentle with children. "He's a good dog," Adaway said.

The Cleveland County Animal Control Bureau said the Adaways did not violate any laws because the dog was leashed and had all of his vaccinations. But the public health director has declared Boo Boo a dangerous dog, which means he will have to live out the rest of his life in a more secure enclosure. Boo Boo will be quarantined at a veterinarian's office for 10 days as a precaution. The Adaways will have to purchase $100,000 of liability insurance if they plan to keep the dog.

Adaway said she does not have any concerns for the safety of her children when they are around Boo Boo. But she said she will be more cautious in the future. "I don't want anyone near my dogs anyway, because you don't know what could happen," she said.

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Young Girl Pulls Neighbor from Attacking Dog, Sustains Bites

The Sun Journal

March 13, 2004, BRIDGETON, NC -- Meradith Bell is a neighborhood hero in the Saints Delight Church Road Community.Only 8 1/2 years old, the Bridgeton Elementary School student is standing tall, though on injured legs, after pulling neighbor Makita Waters from the vicinity of a rottweiler dog two Sundays ago only to find herself attacked instead.

Bell and 3-year-old Waters were playing with friends on Gladewood Drive off Saints Delight Church Road, waiting for Waters' sister to join them, Meradith recalled.
They thought she was at her grandmother's house so they set out to find her.

"She was still at her house so we went down there riding in a Barbie Jeep," she said. "We were not thinking and took a short cut and I saw the dog but only half his chain. There were lots of dogs and the larger dog jumped on her."

Meradith pulled Waters away. It wasn't until she got to her own house that she realized she was bitten in the encounter." I was crying. My leg still hurts," she said.

"The dog bit her numerous times in the back of the leg and chewed up her right arm where the elbow bends," said her mother, Doris Bell. "She had thick pants on so nobody knew her legs were like that until later."

Doris Bell said she first heard the whole story about the attack from a girl next door who saw it. "The dog jumped on the little girl first and Meradith pulled her off," said Doris Bell, who "was familiar with the dog from a previous incident" and phoned Craven County Sheriff Deputies.

Once the extent of the child's injuries was apparent, she was taken to Craven Regional Medical Center where she was treated and released.

Danny Bell, Meradith's father, filed the Feb. 22 incident report with Deputy John Clay, whose report states that he met with dog owner Dianne Cortez of 102 Gladewood Circle and she "said her dog had bitten a little girl and she wanted the dog destroyed."

Clay told the Bells that criminal charges were inappropriate since the incident happened on private property, but that the dog owner was responsible for medical bills connected to the incident.

The sheriff's department later told the family the dog had been picked up by Craven County Animal Control and would be held for 10 days for observation, then destroyed.

The girl's grandfather Cebert Jones, said Thursday, that she may have to have surgery on her legs to repair the damage but she is back at school full time after more than a week of short days due to the injuries.

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Police Believe N.C. Boy, 3, Killed By Neighbor's Pit Bull

Dog Was Chained In Neighbor's Yard; Toddler Wandered Off Tuesday

Posted: 1:55 p.m. EST January 14, 2004Updated: 6:38 p.m. EST January 14, 2004

BUNNLEVEL, N.C. -- An autopsy report on a 3-year-old boy found dead in a neighbor's back yard Tuesday night in Harnett County suggests he was mauled to death by a neighbor's chained-up pit bull.

The autopsy report states the injuries were to the upper torso of Nathan Roy Hill (pictured, left), of Bunnlevel. The sheriff's office said it appears Hill wandered into a neighbor's yard and into the reach of the dog.

The boy's body was found just before 6:30 p.m. EST. Authorities found two bite marks on Hill's body.

Sheriff Larry Rollins said only that the boy had "trauma to the body." -->

Christy Gambill said her son was last seen two hours earlier, playing outside.

When Gambill could not find her son, neighbors stared searching. They did not look near the dog, since she said Nathan was scared of it. Then Gambill called 911.

A responding officer found the boy's body next door near the 80- to 90-pound dog. The deputy shot the dog to get to the boy's body.

Authorities said the boy was found lying between two pit bulls that were chained, and deputies had to use pepper spray and shoot one of the dogs to get to the body. The other dog, which authorities say was not involved, was taken away by animal control.

"It's hard. It hasn't fully hit yet. I'm just trying to get things done before it hits," Gambill said.

Veronica Copley, the owner of the dogs, helped search for the boy. She told WRAL-TV in Raleigh, N.C., that she has had the dogs for seven years and has a child of her own, but that there has never been any trouble with her pets. A "Beware of the Dog" sign is posted on her property.

Neighbors said animal control has been called to the neighborhood before.

The boy's stepfather, who was on military duty in Iraq, was notified about the death and is on his way home, Rollins said. The boy's father lives in Texas.

Investigators are trying to determine if the dog had rabies. The child and dog involved are being examined by the Medical Examiner's Office in Chapel Hill, N.C.

As deputies continue their investigation, they are trying to determine whether neglect charges should be filed against Gambill for leaving her son unsupervised.

Across the country, 79 percent of all fatal dog attacks were on children under the age of 12; 21 percent of those attacks involved a pit bull, or a pit bull mix.

According to Fatal Dog Attacks, from 1965 through 2001, 25 percent of all deadly dog attacks were inflicted by chained dogs. An equal amount resulted from dogs that were loose in their yard. Twenty-three percent occurred inside the home and 17 percent resulted from attacks by dogs roaming off their property. Another 10 percent involved leashed dogs or other miscellaneous circumstances.

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unchainyourdog.org

Exit

Pit Bull Attacks Boy After Boy Hits Dog with Rocks

August 4, 2003 WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — A Winston-Salem boy is recovering after being attacked by a pit bull Sunday night. Officials said the boy was at fault for the attack.

According to the sheriff's office, the 8-year-old boy used a slingshot to shoot rocks and marbles at the dog.

The female pit bull broke free from her chain and bit the boy on the face, stomach and legs, officials said.

The boy is being treated at Baptist Hospital. Animal control has taken custody of the dog. No charges have been filed.

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Help an Animal

Current Legislation on Tethering Dogs

The following states' laws address chaining:

California
Connecticut
Nevada
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

Chaining is prohibited in the following communities:

Fairhope, Alabama
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Jonesboro, Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas
Maumelle, Arkansas
Miami, Florida
Miami-Dade County, Florida
Okaloosa County, Florida
Athens-Clarke County, Georgia
Chatham County, Georgia
DeKalb County, Georgia
Carthage, Missouri
Asheville, North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Clayton, North Carolina
Cumberland County, North Carolina
Durham County, North Carolina
New Hanover, North Carolina
Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina
Lawton, Oklahoma
Austin, Texas
Big Spring, Texas
Dallas, Texas
Electra, Texas
Georgetown, Texas
Fort Worth, Texas
Irving, Texas

The following communities permit animals to be chained for a limited period of time:

Kern County, California
Los Angeles, California
Denver, Colorado
Washington, D.C.
Dania Beach , Florida
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Hollywood, Florida
Oakland Park, Florida
Orange County, Florida
Palm Beach County, Florida
Pembroke Park, Florida
Fulton County, Georgia
Bloomington, Indiana
Floyd County, Indiana
Marion, Indiana
Arkansas City, Kansas
Dodge City, Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas
Leavenworth, Kansas
Overland Park, Kansas
Topeka, Kansas
Wellington, Kansas
Wichita, Kansas
Jefferson City, Kentucky
Louisville, Kentucky
Baker, Louisiana
New Orleans, Louisiana
Carroll County, Maryland
Frederick County, Maryland
East Longmeadow, Massachusetts
Battle Creek, Michigan
Saint Paul, Minnesota
Creve Coeur, Missouri
Camden, New Jersey
Lower Township, New Jersey
Ocean City, New Jersey
Sea Isle City, New Jersey
Wildwood, New Jersey
Wildwood Crest, New Jersey
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Canandaigua, New York
Burke County, North Carolina
Laurinburg, North Carolina
Orange County, North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina
Scotland County, North Carolina
North Royalton, Ohio
Bartlesville, Oklahoma
Multnomah County, Oregon
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Austin, Texas
Danville, Virginia
Norfolk, Virginia
Northampton County, Virginia
Smithfield, Virginia
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Linn, Wisconsin
Racine, Wisconsin

The following ordinances protect animals other than dogs:

Tucson, Arizona
Southhaven, Mississippi
Raytown, Missouri
Allen, Texas
Waco, Texas

The following ordinances prohibit tethering animals in public:

Fremont, California
Hemet, California
Southhaven, Mississippi
Eagan, Minnesota
Lincoln, Nebraska
Allen, Texas
Richland Hills, Texas

The following are ordinances that apply to certain types of dogs:

Fremont, California
Los Angeles, California
San Diego, California
San Jose, California
Midwest City, Oklahoma
Waco, Texas

The following ordinances permit tethering, provided that other conditions of care are met:

Little Rock, Arkansas
Jonesboro, Arkansas
Hemet, California
Fremont, California
San Francisco, California
Larimer County, Colorado
Alachua County, Florida
Wilton Manors, FL
Aurora, Illinois
Noblesville, Indiana
Terre Haute, Indiana
Bowling Green, Kentucky
Louisville, Kentucky
Dennis Township, New Jersey
Catawba County, North Carolina
Greenville, North Carolina
Holly Springs, North Carolina
Bernalillo County, New Mexico
Raytown, Missouri
Lincoln, Nebraska
Ouichita, Louisiana
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
St. Charles Parish, Louisiana
Montgomery County, Maryland
Rockville, Maryland
Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Union City, Tennessee
Lubbock, Texas
Richland Hills, Texas
Richmond, Virginia
Kanawha County, West Virginia