Message from Chief Tony Jones

Recently, our community has been inundated with gang violence. The Gainesville Police Department is responding to this rise in youth gang activity in a coordinated approach as recommended by the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model. I have tasked our current strategic committee of the Black on Black Crime Task Force to include representatives from: law enforcement, education/schools, Probation and/or parole officers, Court Services staff, social service agencies, youth-serving agencies, grassroots community agencies, outreach staff, local government body, and representatives from local college and universities.

There are several essential elements of the model that must be combined in synchronization with the delivery of programs. It is paramount that each strategy plays a role towards a comprehensive effort. The elements of the plan should include the following components:

Community Mobilization (Prevention): Involvement of local citizens, including former gang-involved youth, community groups, agencies, and coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies, through prevention efforts such as educational forums to discuss the danger of gangs. Two levels of prevention strategies should be considered: primary and secondary prevention.

Primary prevention strategies focus on the entire population of high-crime, high-risk communities. Our goal is to visit the neighborhoods where there is a high concentration of reported gang activity and offer workshops and trainings to increase community awareness about gangs to both the youth and parents.

Secondary prevention strategies are activities and services targeting young people, primarily between the ages of 7–18, who are at high risk of joining gangs, and offer workshops to this population and should be offered in our schools where some of the youth attend.

Social Intervention: This involves youth-serving agencies, schools, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations, police, and other juvenile/criminal justice organizations in “reaching out” to gang-involved youth and their families, and linking them with the conventional world and needed services. Within the framework of the Model, the Intervention component is the primary mechanism for delivering these services. The intervention strategies are delivered in a comprehensive way to a certain number of individuals identified based on the data collected during the assessment. Services that the Intervention Team should plan to provide include: Drug and alcohol treatment; Mental health and anger-management counseling; Job training and placement; Transportation assistance; Legal assistance; Transitional/reentry services.

Suppression: This includes formal and informal social control procedures, including close supervision and monitoring of gang-involved youth by agencies of the juvenile/criminal justice system and also by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups. Our agency will play a key role in suppression, but within the context of the Model suppression is also referred to as social control. Ideally, all project partners work together to hold the targeted gang members accountable. Gang crime data should drive gang suppression strategies used in the target community. These strategies should be viewed as part of larger whole, rather than as one-time-only activities.

My goals for the future are working to change conditions contributing to gang involvement within the targeted communities. I have met with the Alachua County Library District to explore enhancing our Library Partnership to include a one-stop center that facilitates effective distribution of anti-gang materials for the parents and youth. This idea was embraced by the Director, Ms Livingston. It is my belief interactive and collaborative effort of combining suppression, social support, and provision of social services have been shown to be most effective in changing criminal involvement of gang members. I ask citizens if they observe large fights or disturbances involving juveniles, please notify law enforcement.

I am proud to announce that the Gainesville Police Department will officially open its doors this May 3, 2014, at 10 am. This will end a three year relief of Police staff throughout our community. I would like to thank the citizens of this community and the Gainesville City Commission for making this a reality. On the day of the grand opening we will provide tours of this 40,000 square feet building with state of the art features.

I close by saying that crime remains down this year and I attribute that to citizens and law enforcement working together. Let’s continue to work to make Gainesville one of the safest cities in this county.
The Gainesville Police Department is leading an initiative to reestablish the Vial of Life program within the City of Gainesville.

This is a program that allows individuals to have critical medical information ready in their home for emergency personnel to reference during an emergency. Through this program patient medical information will be accessible to first responders when a patient is not able to speak or remember this information.

While Vial of Life programs are commonly used by Senior citizens in some areas; this program is available to anyone desirous of this level of preparedness.

This program will greatly benefit emergency personnel by making it easier access to a patient’s medical information. Also as long as data in the Vial is maintained current the patient does not need to remember all of this information while being treated and makes follow-up simpler for police to contact next of kin if necessary.

The Vial of Life program is a free program and if you are interested in participating please contact Officer Ryan McCrazio at 352-393-7752. GPD would like to thank CVS for donation of vials.

S.A.F.E.
Self-defense, Awareness & Familiarization, Exchange

"If you were targeted for a violent attack, you are only guaranteed there will be one person there to defend you and that person is you... YOU are your best defense."

Several years ago the Gainesville Police Department saw a need for a low intensity women’s self-defense course that women of all ages could participate in regardless of their physical condition. The Class also needed to be brief to accommodate the busy lifestyles of female professionals and students. The Department found its answer in S.A.F.E.

'S.A.F.E.' (an acronym for Self-defense Awareness & Familiarization Exchange) is an unparalleled, crime-victim prevention program – encompassing Strategies, Techniques, Options, and Prevention – that provides teen-aged & adult women with information that may reduce their risk of exposure to violence and introduces them to the physical aspects of self-defense.

S.A.F.E is a one day, 4 hour program offered as a community service to women in our various neighborhoods and organizations. Its goal is to provide attendees with information, tactics, and considerations that may be useful in various physical encounters perpetrated against women. S.A.F.E has a dual purpose:

1. To prevent crimes of sexual violence in our communities through programs of education and training, focusing primarily on awareness and prevention;
2. To educate women about realistic options that will help them avoid, escape, and survive assaults if they do occur.

S.A.F.E teaches that “90% of self-defense is awareness, risk reduction, and avoiding confrontation. Only 10% is physical. Focusing on both mental and physical preparedness, S.A.F.E. provides women with solid public safety-awareness information to incorporate into their everyday lives. The class has been taken by women from 80 years of age to 15. Instructors encourage students to view self-defense as a state of being, not a series of rehearsed movements of the hands or feet. To put students in the right state of mind, one of the first questions asked is “how hard would you fight to protect yourself?” that question is followed by “how hard would you fight to protect your child?” Students surprise themselves with the difference in the two responses, and are further surprised when instructors tell them that if they have to fight, fight for yourself as hard as you would fight for your child.

Many women come to S.A.F.E classes feeling that they aren’t physically strong enough to protect themselves. Some of the women, who attend have taken other self-defense courses. They admitted that those courses made them feel left behind, or in over their heads. S.A.F.E is intended as an introduction to self-defense. Women who have taken the course come away with a feeling of empowerment, finding strength in themselves that they didn’t know they had. Some women see the class as an eye opener and realize that some of their day to day habits could have been putting them in danger. The goal is for all to walk away knowing how crucial awareness is to self-defense, and to also know that they have the will and strength to fight if they have to.

Classes are held once a month on the last Saturday of the month, and will be in the new G.P.D gym. This schedule is flexible as needed, as is the location.

Ofc. Ernest Graham
352-393-7753
grahame@cityofgainesville.org
The traveling magazine salespeople are back in town and will soon be knocking on your door. They will try most anything to convince you to part with your money. GPD has already received reports that the sales groups are about 150 strong. In past years they have been quite aggressive and crimes follow them through the neighborhoods they canvass.

There are legitimate groups that really sell magazines but history has shown that the majority of these salespersons have criminal histories and are not out there for legitimate sales.

So, if you have a magazine solicitor ring your doorbell and have any questions as to whether this is a legitimate call or not, don’t hesitate to contact GPD. The number you should call is 955-1818.

There are several tips when dealing with solicitors (magazine or others):

- Speak from behind a closed and locked door
- Never drive the solicitor anywhere
- Never invite a solicitor into your home.
- Don’t be afraid to ask them to go away
- They may tell you a sob story…Don’t buy into it

After you have visited with Earther Wright for a few minutes, you feel as if she is a longtime friend. That’s just how she makes you feel.

Earther worked as an X-Ray tech for 29 years while she was raising her children. After she retired, she needed something to do. It was suggested she go back to college. At age 63, she graduated from UF. Her son accompanied her to New Student Orientation and when the parents were asked to leave and he rose, he was told to stay, it was the parents who were to leave. “I’m here with my Mom who is the new student. I’ve already graduated.”

Since that time she has been “the busiest woman I know to be retired." She is on two Boards for the City of Gainesville (Community Development Block Grant and Disadvantaged Transportation Board). She is on the Board of the American Cancer Society and a member of the Black on Black Crime Task Force, as well as two non-profit organizations (Sisters Helping Sisters and Women Networking with Women). She also is involved with the committee to revitalize the old Kennedy Homes property, is active in her church and in the past has worked with children at her church’s Saturday Academy.

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She attended a neighborhood association meeting with her son, now retired Ofc. Robert Wright, who encouraged people to attend the Citizens Academy. He said “I know my Mom is going to be the first one to sign up.” She didn’t know he was going to say that, but sign up she did and has been active ever since. She is now President of the Citizens Academy Alumni Association. This Association was started in 2003 from members who graduated from the Academy. Rather than just attend the Academy and learn about GPD resources, this group continues learning and assisting GPD with a number of projects.

Earther and many of the members have also attended advanced academies.

Each year they represent GPD in the UF Homecoming Parade, sponsor National Night Out, along with monetary donations to several Scholarship Funds. At the present time, there are 20-22 active members who come to the monthly meetings. Earther has been supplying her home cooked meals for the meetings but is now going to ask the members to bring dishes. Their ability to make the monetary donations comes from the Crime Prevention Banquets they sponsor. Their last one was in 2010 and it is just about time for another as their coffers are running low.

The largest event they sponsor is National Night Out on the first Tuesday of August. It is held at Lincoln Williams Park with between 600-800 people participating and is the largest NNO in the City. There are 8 neighborhoods that come together and all participate in the event. This is held between 5-8pm and many walk to it as it will still be daylight when they walk home. For those who drive, there is plenty of parking available. They give away backpacks and school supplies donated by Target and Office Depot. All participants are fed hamburgers, hot dogs, fried fish, and all the trimmings.

They have the chance to meet police officers and find out what they do. They also meet firefighters, sheriff’s deputies, health department staff, FHP, the library’s bookmobile and many other community service agencies.

She can’t talk about the Citizens Academy without mention of James Albright, who serves as director/liaison with GPD and has organized citizens Academies in the past.

A quote from the 2003 Citizens Academy yearbook sums it all up: “We would like to encourage all Citizens’ Academy Alumni to continue serving others within our communi-
The elite K-9 Unit of GPD provides 24 hour coverage throughout the city and is assigned to support the Operations Bureau. The team members are utilized to assist in criminal apprehension, locate missing persons, detect narcotics, act as back-up and assist with crowd control as needed. The Team Supervisor is Sgt. Brad Litchfield.

Each team must go through a rigorous 400 hour basic handler course which prepares them for the situations they will encounter. All K-9 teams must be evaluated and certified by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement prior to being patrol ready. The state requires a minimum of 16 hours training per month. The Unit for GPD goes well past that requirement to stay proficient.

The unit is comprised of 8 dogs with the patrol unit and one single purpose (narcotics) dog. They have a service span of five to seven years. The dogs are purchased in Europe by vendors throughout the country. At present seven of the dogs are German Shepherds and there is one Dutch Shepherd. GPD uses vendors from the Orlando area and have gone as far as South Carolina to purchase their dogs.

Ideally, the handler is chosen and the dog is picked to match the handler so their personalities mesh.

These dogs are your typical family pets when not at work. They live day to day with the handler and their family. When it is time for the dogs to go to work, they are ready – they love their work. The dogs are taught to apprehend only on command from their handler or will come to the defense of their handler.

To be selected to be a member of K9 unit, the requirements are rigid: 2 years minimum as a patrol officer, recommendation of their supervisor, have a clean IA record, be a proactive officer who can run a call and coordinate resources, and be in good shape to pass the qualifications for physical test. The selection process takes a full day. The prospective handlers must run 1.5 miles with boots and vest, negotiate a firearms course while carrying a five gallon bucket of water with one hand and show proficiency in sense of direction by navigating a woods or swamp course.

The name of the dog appears on the transport vehicle of their handler. Some businesses sponsor dogs and pick out their names. Roo is sponsored by Kangaroo, Axe by Firehouse Subs and Justice (the oldest of the dogs at 9 years) by Papa Johns.

Thank you to GPD’s K-9 Team for helping make Gainesville a safer place to live.

The building project was overseen by Gilbane Building Company who built the new 40,000-square-foot building. The new headquarters will be a modern, technologically-enhanced building that encourages citizen involvement. It will include a “Community Room” where neighborhood groups will be encouraged to meet and interact with GPD. Most importantly, citizens needing various police services will no longer have to travel all around Gainesville.
Ofc. Jermaine Hutchinson is a base guitar player. His three sisters and father all sing and when he decided in 2005 to take up the base guitar, he “had no idea how to play but my sisters and father were willing to help and they were very patient with me.” Now they go into the community as a team to sing and play. When they are asked to play for a benefit, someone’s anniversary, or any other event, they go and bless with their music. They played at the Elementary School in Hawthorne at Christmas, and he plays in a full band at church.

His wife was diagnosed with breast cancer on October 30, 2012 and has been cancer free for two years now. For the first year, they both were unable to be active in either the community or at church. But she now has been cancer free for two years and is in a position to give her time and energy to the community. She has just been able to acquire a building to open a dance studio. She not only uses the building to teach dancing, they have movie nights for the young people there and have big plans and a lot of ideas for the future.

Gainesville High School is fortunate to have Ofc. Hutchinson as their School Resource Officer. He not only is responsible for the overall security of the school, he is very involved with the students. “I wear many hats, sometimes big brother, sometimes father. There are so many different things to do for the students. Sometimes it is difficult for the students to approach me because of my uniform, but I make it clear that I am approachable.” He has an open door policy and deals with their issues. If he is unable to help, he makes sure they find help elsewhere. He is active in sports as he travels with the football team when they make an out of town trip. The teachers utilize him to teach the students about different aspects of law enforcement, such as what law enforcement officers do, about warrants, battery and drugs, to name a few.

Ofc. Hutchinson, thank you for all you do to keep our city and young people safe and for your...
Sgt. Nick Ferrara has been selected as Supervisor of the Quarter. Daily, Sgt. Ferrara demonstrates the qualities our department looks for in a leader. He is a teacher and a mentor. As a former SWAT team member, his tactical knowledge is very high and other officers trust him to make sound decisions.

Sgt. Ferrara’s management style is firm, but easy going. He has high standards for his subordinates, but treats them with respect. Sgt. Ferrara is clearly well liked by all members of the midnight shift.

Sgt. Ferrara leads by example. He is the definition of a FIELD supervisor. Sgt. Ferrara works with his team nightly. He responds to hot calls; he’ll take a perimeter position; he backs-up his team on traffic stops; he mentors and teaches.

Sgt. Ferrara believes in our Community Oriented Policing efforts. He has spearheaded both the reboot of the Safety Kiosk concept at midtown and has developed an Alcohol Awareness Detail. He loves to interact with citizens and is a positive reinforcement for how we are perceived by the citizens we serve.

The following are some opinions from his teammates: “He was very good to work under as a new officer. He was always available and willing to help out. He was a great source of information and a great teacher, whether it be on tactics or legal issues pertaining to the job. He holds all of his officers to a high standard, which, without micromanaging, pushes them to try harder. He treats his officers as equals, and it’s something we all appreciated.” “As a veteran officer, I have worked with and for Sgt. Ferrara. He has outstanding knowledge and a great ability to impart it to others. I still use him as a resource due to his ability. He is an excellent leader and shares any burden that is asked of officers. He is proactive and substantially contributes to finding and solving crimes. He is exemplar by word and deed to the ethos of professional law enforcement.”

Sgt. Ferrara is tactically sound. His prior investigative experience shines through while assisting on major case calls and in the supplements he writes. He also excels at the administrative aspect of supervising. Whether it be handling complaints or dealing with problem employees. Sgt. Ferrara cares about the team and the overall mission of GPD. For all these reasons and many more, Sgt. Ferrara was selected. Congratulations!

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**January 2014 Officer of the Month, Ofc. Candace Futrell**

Officer Futrell is assigned to Team 2, Romeo Zone on Shift 4. Although she is still a relatively new Officer with a little over a year experience, she is a lead worker who excels at being proactive with very impressive results. She has great instincts when it comes to detecting crime and apprehending those responsible. She is a very dedicated, hard worker. On slow nights, Candace can always be heard on the radio conducting traffic stops and checking out with suspicious persons. She works very hard to ensure her zone is a safe place for Gainesville residents to live.

Below are some of the significant incidents/arrests she initiated during the month of December:

**DWLSR Habitual, FATE, Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Possession of Cocaine with Intent, Possession of <20g Cannabis, RWOV, AOA - 2000 SE Hawthorne Rd:** Ofc. C. Futrell stopped Carrie Hughes for a traffic violation at the listed location. Hughes initially stopped, and as Ofc. Futrell approached the vehicle, she observed Michael Curry cupping what appeared to be cocaine in his hand. Hughes then abruptly drove away from the stop. Ofc. Futrell followed as Hughes turned south on SE 23rd St, before stopping in the 1000 block. Curry then exited the vehicle and fled on foot ignoring commands to stop, as Ofc. Futrell gave chase. Sgt. B. Kays and several shift 3 units assisted in establishing a perimeter. Ofc. J. Kerkau and K9 Roo conducted a track. Curry was apprehended by Roo after he was observed by Ofc. S. Sweeting attempting to break perimeter in the 1400 block of SE 20th St. Curry was found to have .5g of powdered cocaine, .8g of crack in 5 pieces, and 1.1g of cannabis in his possession. Hughes, whose license is suspended as an HTO, became cooperative and stated that Curry fled the vehicle with a gun. An article search revealed that Curry had discarded a loaded Colt .38 caliber revolver as he jumped a fence during his flight. Curry, who is a 4 time convicted felon, was treated at Shand’s for dog bites. Hughes was also discovered to be a suspect in a recent Armed Robbery being investigated by ASO. Tampering w/ Evidence, Poss. <20g Cannabis - 1200 EUA: Ofc. C. Futrell stopped Hudson Anderson for a stop sign violation. Anderson pulled into an empty parking lot, where he discarded an item before continuing through the lot an eventually stopping. A search of the area revealed that Anderson threw out a cannabis blunt, in an attempt to prevent its discovery.

Criminal Mischief, Grand Theft, RWOV - 423 SE 25th Dr: Ofc. C. Futrell responded to this location where the victim’s ex-boyfriend Jermaine Curtis had just slashed her car tires. Ofc. Futrell observed Curtis driving from the scene, and turned around to stop him. Curtis immediately drove into the dead end in the 2400 block of NE 1st Ave and fled on foot. A perimeter was established, and Curtis was found hiding several feet away. Curtis resisted efforts to be handcuffed, but was eventually taken into custody. It was later learned that Curtis took the victim’s $400 Iphone, to prevent her from reporting the incident.
Significant Cases This Quarter

**Business Burglary – 2130 NW 31st Ave, G1 (Cypress Glenn Spring Apartments)**
The unoccupied apartment is used by Choice Electric to store rolls of electric wire and several were stolen. Window in north bedroom appeared to be removed from track for entry. Rolls of wire were found in the home of Garner Christopher Daniels, a Choice Electric employee.

**November – S10 – 320 SW 16th Ave (Oaks Pawn)**
Melody Chrystal Bull was arrested and taken to ASODOJ after stealing a Silver Springs Water van and leading officers on a pursuit down I-75. In the process of driving away with the van, Bull hit a car causing extensive damage.

**Strong arm Robbery – 3970 SW Archer Rd (Target)**
James Francis McCarron, was arrested after attempting to steal electronics and punching the store’s LPO. McCarron was trespassed from Target and Butler Plaza.

**Conveyance Burglary – 111 NW 15th Ter (Avenues at College Park)**
The victim, who was walking out of his 2nd floor apartment, observed two suspects walking up the stairs of his complex carrying the victim’s car speaker box. After words were exchanged, the two suspects dropped the box and fled to the 3rd floor of the complex with the items. One of the suspects punched the victim in the face after dropping the box. The suspects were identified and taken to ASODOJ.

Michael Tyler Terrell         Tanner Ray Redish,

**Residential Burglary/Battery/Resisting/Grand Theft of a Firearm – 501 SE 18th St, #49 (Village Crossing Apts)**
The Offender reached inside apartment and punched victim. Then fought with security guard and tried to get his weapon. Arrested: Javon Myhand
The Crime Prevention Unit hopes that you have enjoyed this issue of the Community Connection! Most importantly, we hope that you have received vital information about what you can do to help prevent being victimized, and what your rights are even after you are victimized. It is our goal to equip you, the good citizens of Gainesville, with the information and training that you need to help prevent and stop crime in your community!

In the next issue, in addition to excellent articles from and about neighborhood representatives and GPD officers, we want to hear from you! This section will be reserved for feedback, letters to the editor, and the like. If you would like to give feedback on an article you read, what articles/topics you would like to see in the future, to nominate a resident/business owner or manager for recognition, or if you simply have a comment, suggestion, or any other information you would like to share, please email Corliss Gibbons at gibbonscd@cityofgainesville.org with your request no later than June 15th. All requests received will be reviewed by the Crime Prevention Officers who will determine which ones will be printed. If you would simply like to subscribe to the newsletter, please email Ofc. Tierney.

Always remember: Safety First!