



Rory B. Collins
Chief of Police

SALISBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

An Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

Press Release

The Salisbury Police Department, as part of its ongoing effort to build greater trust and stronger relationships with the residents of our West End community, as well as to further enhance its work to deter and fight crime, will be opening a police substation in the West End community beginning Tuesday, August 12th. The substation, which will be located at Hall's Gym, 1400 West Bank Street, will not be staffed by police at all times. Instead, the substation will be utilized, at pre-set times, for the purposes of allowing West End community members to visit in order to share information that they would like to see addressed concerning any matters which have an impact upon the quality of life in their neighborhood.

With today's technological advancements, and with such specialized equipment now utilized by police officers, right from their patrol car, the need for police substations, which previously provided a centralized location within the neighborhood to carry out some of the officer's duties, is significantly lessened. However, what that excellent equipment cannot replace is the need for, and benefit of, the personal connections that are gained by face to face interaction. It is the intent of this substation to provide just that.

In May of this year, the Police Department hosted a community meeting at the Miller Recreational Center, which was designed for the purposes of revealing the department's new structure and its revised efforts aimed at better serving the West End community. Also, the meeting was used to introduce to the residents those specific officers who were now assigned to serve them. During that meeting, residents of the community made it clear that, rather than hearing from the department, residents wanted the department to hear from them. The intent of this West End Police Substation is to fulfill that request, and to demonstrate to the community that we are committed to doing all we can to serve them.

The West End Police Substation will be staffed by the department's new Community Relations Officer, Reuben Ijames, on Tuesdays from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. and on Thursdays from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.. From time to time, the meetings may also be attended by other Police Department or city staff. It is our hope that, by providing two separate days during the week, along with an afternoon and an evening option, that those who wish to speak with the officer may be able to do so. These meetings will have no agenda, and the manner in which they are conducted will be determined by the citizen. If they prefer to share information/concerns in private, without other citizens hearing them, they may do so.

Though the department has employed a Community Relations Officer, Officer Annice Chunn, for some time, her duties vary, to include state mandated victim advocacy functions as well. In April, the Police Chief created the second Community Relations Officer (Ijames) position in order to provide specific and direct focus upon the needs and concerns of our citizens. With those discussions, which have taken place at the citizen's front door, in their living room, and even in their driveways, the department is better aware of problems and is better able



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to work to resolve them. Though we know we have made some progress, we are also keenly aware that there is still more work to be done.

While, the new strategies being employed by the department are designed to better serve the entire city, much focus has been toward efforts to improve relationships and the quality of life in our West End. Though, our first substation meetings are beginning in the West End, it is our goal to eventually provide this same type of service within other parts of our city as well.

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