

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

page 1 of 2

CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson

Public Information and Communications Manager

City of Salisbury

132 North Main Street

Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Work Phone: 704-638-2113 Cell: 704-213-1050 Home Phone: 704-633-7123

Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>

Work Email Contact: [kwilk@salisburync.gov](mailto:kwilk@salisburync.gov)

Home Email Contact: [kwilkinson2@carolina.rr.com](mailto:kwilkinson2@carolina.rr.com)

## Salisbury's Project SAFE Neighborhoods' Team Assists City Police Investigators with Neighborhood Canvass

*Residents Informed that Neighborhood Violence will not be Tolerated*

Salisbury, NC –July 13, 2006 – Members of the Salisbury Project SAFE Neighborhoods (PSN) Task Force joined City Police Criminal Investigators in a neighborhood canvass, involving the Locke Street and Wilson Road area, on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. The local outreach is taken in response to arrests made following the brutal beating and shooting of 37-year-old Anthony McFadden on May 29, 2006. The incident took place at the 700 block of Wilson Road at approximately 10:30 pm.

Four men have been arrested and charged to date with the McFadden fatality. Tyrone Vinson, arrested the day following the murder, was followed by Isaac Sanders, charged on Wednesday, June 21. A third suspect, Samuel Poole, was charged in late June with the fourth suspect, Antoine Terrell McGee, arrested Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Lt. David Belk, head of the City's Police Criminal Investigations Unit, states that a group of men beat McFadden near his apartment, located just a few blocks from Salisbury High School. Following the beating, McFadden was shot several times in the chest and although alive at the scene, died shortly after being taken to Rowan Regional Medical Center. Belk states, "McFadden had numerous run-ins with the law in the past" and adds, "many of those were drug-related incidents."

Belk shares that the canvass, which initiated at 6:30 pm from the Salisbury High School Parking Lot, was an approximate two-hour process and involved teaming a volunteer Project Safe member with a Salisbury Police officer. The intent was to reach out to the local neighborhood and inform residents that the Police and the Community support them and will not tolerate such violence. Belk notes, "We are looking for assistance from the neighborhood and seek any information which they can possibly share regarding the McFadden murder or to aid us in reducing crime in their neighborhood." In addition, citizens are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers at 1-866-639-JAIL (5245) at any time, with information for the police.

Mayor Susan Kluttz, a Project SAFE Team Member, participated in the canvass to help assure the neighborhood residents that the City is concerned about the recent incident, does sincerely care about their safety, and will not tolerate this type of gun violence. Kluttz shares that she also wanted to demonstrate her support for the Project SAFE program, which she believes makes a tremendous difference in the safety of Salisbury's citizens. The Mayor states, "We have many dedicated volunteers, like the ones who were walking the streets of this neighborhood Thursday night. These individuals work

closely with local law enforcement and court personnel to discourage illegal gun use and to promote violence prevention with our young people.” Kluttz adds that gun violence can not be prevented by law enforcement alone and that there has to be a partnership between law enforcement and the community. “Our City Council is committed to this program and continues to support it in every way possible. We are grateful to U.S. Attorney Anna Mills Wagoner for including Salisbury in the group of larger cities in our Nation, which are aided through Federal and State Partnerships with our local police and sheriff’s departments.”

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America by networking existing local programs that target gun crime and providing these programs with additional tools necessary to be successful. The Bush Administration committed over \$1.5 billion to this effort since PSN's inception in 2001. This funding is being used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, distribute gun lock safety kits, deter juvenile gun crime, and develop and promote community outreach efforts as well as to support other gun violence reduction strategies. As part of the project, violent convicted felons attend a community notification session, where they are informed that they could face federal charges for the crimes which they have committed. The structured gathering includes an opening segment by volunteer community representatives who offer assistance, compassion and sincere concern for the welfare of their community and the future of those notified. Immediately following, law enforcement and prosecutors promise stiff punishment for those who continue to commit violence. Project SAFE increases federal, state and local law enforcement resources to vigorously prosecute repeat violent and group offenders who use guns in committing crimes. At the same time, it identifies the people involved in violent crimes in the past and, through a community intervention team, makes them aware of resources that are available to help them stay out of trouble.

A former Chief District Court Judge in Rowan County, United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, Anna Mills Wagoner explains that Project SAFE is not an offer to forgive, but a way for offenders to turn their lives around. For the offenders who continue to commit acts of violence, police and prosecutors promise those in the notification meetings that they will come down hard on them in state and federal court and get them off the streets for a long time. Ms. Wagoner adds, “A decrease in gun crime and citizen complaints are exactly the results that we are striving for ... safer streets, neighborhoods and front porches for all to enjoy.”

In addition to notifications, Project SAFE Salisbury offers educational outreach sessions to the community. Programs, designed specifically for ages, kindergarten to adult, are implemented by team volunteers striving to create awareness and preserve the safety of their community. In addition, Project SAFE Salisbury has designed and distributes complimentary educational guides for parents and concerned citizens regarding gang activity and awareness. Citizens are encouraged to visit the Project SAFE Salisbury website at <http://www.salisburync.gov/projectsafe/safesalisbury.htm> for more information regarding gangs, gun awareness and children’s safety tips and interactive games.

For more information regarding Project SAFE Salisbury, please contact Resource Coordinator, Teresa Vinson at 704-638-2175 or via email at [tvins@salisburync.gov](mailto:tvins@salisburync.gov) .

###