

# Greenville County Citizen Review Board

INDEPENDENT OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITH INVESTIGATORY POWERS



# WHAT ARE CITIZENS SAYING ABOUT CITIZEN REVIEW BOARDS?

**DESPITE SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH BOARDS, INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS SAY:**

*A. They feel validated when the oversight body agrees with their allegations—or when they have an opportunity to be heard by an independent overseer regardless of outcomes;*

*B. They are satisfied at being able to express their concerns in person to the officer;*

*C. They feel they are contributing to holding the department accountable for officers' behavior.*

# PARTNERSHIP OF ACCOUNTABILITY

## GCCRB

- ▶ Create better transparent relationships based on responsibility and accountability among the County Council, the Sheriff's Office and the Community

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**AND**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**

**COMMUNITY NON-PROFITS**

We believe that law enforcement is an essential component of Public Safety. But other community components play important roles in this area. Beyond Differences' *Public Safety Platform* calls for the support of our law enforcement and believes that it is the community's responsibility to set the standards to ensure that all citizens are protected. .

# Why Is GCCRB Important ?

- ▶ Restores trust In County Council as having oversight
- ▶ Establishes the principles of public accountability
- ▶ Provides source of information about misconduct
- ▶ Alerts the Sheriff and others about trends that cast negative light on the office
- ▶ Gives the community the expectation of transparency
- ▶ Gives civilians concrete steps for addressing their complaints
- ▶ Reinforces the Greenville County Sheriff's Office Accreditation Status

# GREENVILLE COUNTY CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

- A. Independence:** power to conduct hearings
- B. Investigatory Power:** the authority to independently investigate incidents and issue findings
- C. Mandatory Sheriff's Office Cooperation:** access to witnesses and documents—budgetary mandate
- D. Adequate Funding:** should not be a lower budget priority than Sheriff's internal affairs systems
- E. Open Hearing:** essential for solving credibility questions
- F. Reflect Community Diversity:** representative of the community
- G. Policy Recommendation:** create forum for developing reforms
- H. Statistical Analysis:** studies can address trends and give early warning systems
- I. Separate Offices:** not part of Sheriff's Office
- J. Recommendation of Discipline:** Public Safety Committee to County Council to Sheriff

# INVESTIGATORY ARM AND CITIZEN OVERSIGHT

**Greenville  
County**

**Public Safety  
Inspector's  
Office**



**A System of Responsibility, Accountability and  
Transparency that Fit Our Communalilty**

# **PUBLIC SAFETY INSPECTOR**

**GREENVILLE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**THE ADDITION OF THE  
GREENVILLE COUNTY PUBLIC  
SAFETY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE  
SERVES THE COUNTY ON  
SEVERAL LEVELS:**

- A. PROVIDES AN  
INVESTIGATORY ARM**
- B. GIVES GCCRB LEGITIMACY  
AND A PROCESS**
- C. GENERATES CREDIBILITY  
AND TRUST IN THE PROCESS**



# OUR TOP PRIORITY

Voice of the Community seeking  
**Accountability, Responsibility,** and  
**Transparency** through

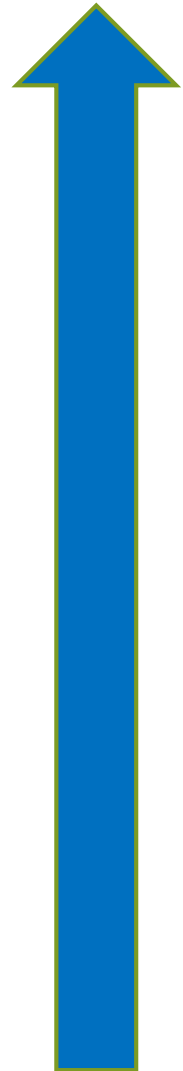
- oversight of Law Enforcement and
- creating the independent investigatory component that would bring community continuity.

GCCRB In Partnership With The Newly  
Formed Greenville County Public  
Safety Inspector's Office  
(PSI)

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

# THE GREENVILLE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE (PSI)

# COMPLAINT REPORTING STRUCTURE



## Greenville County Council

- Receives final report From Public Safety Committee
- Acts upon its recommendations

## Greenville County Public Safety Committee

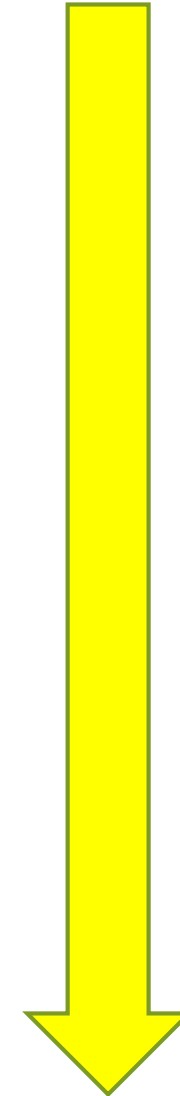
- Oversees the Public Safety Inspector's Office
- Receives and reviews all reports and issues their report to the full Council

## Greenville County Public Safety Inspector's Office

- Investigative arm of Greenville County, housing GCCRB's inquiries
- Answers directly to Public Safety Committee

## Citizen Review Board (12 members)

- Receives citizens' complaints regarding action(s) by Sheriff and Sheriff's Employees
- Component of PSI Office



# The Function of the Greenville County Public Safety Inspector's Office

- **Authority to Create Citizen Oversight Board:** The Greenville County Council has implied oversight of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, because the Council allocates the budget of the Sheriff's Office. The establishment of the Greenville County Public Safety Inspector's Office will provide the Greenville County Council with a mechanism to fulfill its budgetary oversight obligation.
- **The Power To Oversee:** The Public Safety Inspector's Office is established by and serves at the pleasure of the Greenville County Council and is answerable only to the Public Safety Committee of the County Council regarding Public Safety matters. The Public Safety Inspector's Office is independent of the Greenville County Administrator's Office.
- **Responsibility To The GCCRB:** Defines and clarifies citizens complaints relating to grievances, criminal complaints or conflict between citizens and deputies based on interactions.
- **Inspector:** Oversees all investigations and inquiries; and addresses matters with the chairperson of County Council Public Safety Committee; signs off on all final reports to the Committee; is responsible for hiring, conduct, and termination of staff of the Inspector's Office.
- **Staff:** The Inspector's Office staff consist of five members: Chief Investigator, 2nd Investigator, Secretary, Community Public Safety Coordinator, and part-time Crime Analyst.

Salary ranges are based on the scale of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, from Major level to Sheriff's investigators' Level.

# Public Safety Inspector's Office: Description of Responsibilities

The Public Safety Inspector's Office provides the County of Greenville and the Greenville County Council an investigatory arm of government oversight independent of the Sheriff's Office. The Inspector's Office will:

- A. Investigate all matters of the Sheriff's Office relating to any employees who request an independent review of specific complaints against the Sheriff or his staff.
- B. Conduct an independent inquiry into any incident involving an on-duty or off-duty Sheriff's deputy that results in the death of a citizen. This independent inquiry will provide the County Council with an in-depth analysis of the circumstances and causes leading to the death of a citizen. The Sheriff's Office will provide the Inspector's Office access to all material, witnesses, or declarations regarding the inquiry.
- C. Monitor all Sheriff's Office internal investigations of deputies or employees of the Sheriff's Office who file a complaint of unfair treatment with the Inspector's Office.
- D. Investigate all matters of sexual harassment, race discrimination, or other matters of discrimination alleged in complaints lodged against the Sheriff's Office.
- E. File all state and federal (FBI) requirements relating to the death of a citizen caused by a Sheriff's deputy or the shooting of a citizen by a deputy.
- F. Create community initiatives that are proactive, community oriented and Public Safety based that serve the best interests of Greenville County.
- G. Perform an annual assessment of the Greenville County Sheriff's accreditation, its inventory, and other related matters as defined by Greenville County Council.
- H. Provide the Greenville County Council with an independent analysis of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office crime statistics as they relate to county districts, and of other trends that affect any aspects of Public Safety.
- I. Review all drug related seizures and asset forfeiture cases.

# Case Status and Recommendation

- ▶ **Unfounded on GCCRB Level**
- ▶ **Unsubstantiated**
- ▶ **Substantiated/ forward with recommendations**
- ▶ **Substantiated/ without recommendations**

# Citizen Complaint Tracking System

## Citizen's Complaint

Citizen has 10 days after an alleged incident to file with GCCRB.

Citizen may be required to bring witnesses to the initial GCCRB inquiry.

Citizen who intentionally files a false allegation against law enforcement officer will be subject to criminal charges.

## GCCRB

Discuss the Merits of the complaints: two resolutions

- a. Resolved at GCCRB level
- b. Forward to PSI

In case of involvement of Sheriff's deputy in shooting of citizens, the Public Safety Inspector's Office has 5 (days) to report initial finding to GCCRB

If the deceased's family files a complaint with GCCRB, the PSI office must notify the Public Committee to Issue an inquiry to the GCSO

## PSI

Receive all complaints from GCCRB Regardless of the deposition of the case.

Active Case Forwarded Must Be completed within a 45-day period.

PSI will assist GCCRB with Inquiries relating to community concerns and other public safety matters.