

Twenty-five Years and Going Strong Greensboro's PNRC Program

GREENSBORO, NC – The Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA), Greensboro Police Department (GPD) and GHA residents joined together to remember and honor the past and celebrate the establishment of Police Neighborhood Resource Centers (PNRC) in 1989.



Gloria Rankin, right, is honored with flowers for her work in creating the PNRC partnership by CEO Tina Akers Brown.

Gloria Rankin, a resident of Smith Homes since 1970, remembers the community before PNRCs. “There was so much drugs and violence in our communities,” said Ms. Rankin, “and we just had enough.” Several women living in Greensboro’s public housing communities banded together to form a different kind of RAD – Residents Against Drugs. The group started speaking to everyone and anyone that would listen about crime in their neighborhood. “We spoke to the city, GHA, the state and did interviews with the newspaper and TV stations.”

It worked. A solution was found. A partnership began with the residents, GHA and GPD to provide neighborhood policing in public housing communities that continues today. Five police substations with police officers and GHA residents staffing the stations make referrals for help easy, convenient and accessible for those living in the communities.

Anita Holder, interim Chief of Police, said she was skeptical when the PNRC program was introduced but she readily admits when she is wrong. “Just looking at crime statistics, you see that crime in public housing is much lower than that of surrounding apartment communities.”

Ms. Rankin, who was one of the first residents to sign up to staff the PNRC substation is still at work at Smith Homes PNRC, was honored by GHA President and Chief Executive Officer Tina Akers Brown during the event. “Without women like Gloria, we wouldn’t be celebrating today and our communities would be less safe,” said Ms. Akers Brown, “Thank you.”

Resident PNRC staff, GHA staff and GPD PNRC officers pose for a picture at their 25th Anniversary Celebration.

