

1. Why do we as black people get followed so much?

The Sheriff's Office traffic stop statistics by race from 2010 to 2015 are as follows:

Total Stops - 1,529

White - 737

Black - 694

Native American - 49

Asian - 1

Other - 48

2. How can the police work with the African-American community to improve race relations?

The Sheriff's Office has offered to come to all churches in the county that want our services to help with security issues. The Sheriff will arrange meetings with any group that requests a positive meeting.

3. The media has glorified more than 150 young black men killed with so much constitutive. How many young white men have been killed in the same manner?

National records of fatal officer involved shootings from January thru June this year are as follows:

Killed - 509

Male - 484

Female - 25

White - 238

Black - 123

Hispanic - 79

Unknown - 46

Other - 23

4. What is it that causes the police to approach the black citizen more aggressively than white citizens? (scenario) Black man carrying a weapon on his side going into Walmart. The manager of the store calls the police. The entire police dept show up guns drawn. White man with weapon on his side, he do his shopping and go home with no incident.)

Officers are taught to approach all individuals in the same manner. Race has nothing to do with an approach. What does matter is the situation to which an officer is called or

encounters once there. North Carolina is an open carry state and you can carry a weapon in plain view in Walmart and it is not against the law.

5. Do officers complete any type of crisis intervention training to effectively and non-aggressively de-escalate situations with individuals with mental and/or developmental disabilities?

All officers are trained to respond to victims and the public which includes individuals with mental and/or developmental disabilities in their basic training course. They also are trained in dealing with domestic violence situations in the basic training course. Officers receive in service training each year in Juvenile Minority Sensitivity Training. In past years they have had classes in dealing with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals dealing with returning vets from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is a week-long, 40 hour class called Crisis Intervention Training that the Sheriff's office plans to put every officer through. Currently approximately 20 officers, dispatchers, and detention officers have completed the course.

6. How are officers trained to police people citizens they don't ever get to know?

Officers are trained to enforce the law. They deal with individuals every shift. Bladen County has 35,000 citizens. There are 51 sworn deputies. It would be impossible for every deputy to get to know every citizen in the county. Deputies try to meet and interact with as many people as they can. Use yourself as an example and ask yourself if you know everyone who lives within a mile of your home.

7. I do not think the issue is race as it is accountability. Social media has streamed with support for law enforcement but very little announce the wrong in the situation and this is a problem.

A. What policies and procedure does Bladen County have in place to avoid this lack of accountability?

You have failed to identify the specific lack of accountability. Every officer is accountable for his actions and his agency is responsible for making sure officers act in a professional and ethically moral way.

B. Are the policies available for the public view?

The policy and procedure manual of the Bladen County Sheriff's Office is available for viewing at the Sheriff's office Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The policy consists of 584 pages and covers all aspects of the office. The current policy was reviewed and revised by Sheriff Jim McVicker when he came into office. This was his first priority after taking office. The policy was implemented on February 26, 2015 and is constantly being revised to reflect changes in laws and best practices.

With that being said, only certain portions of the policy are public record. Sensitive public security information such as plans for the security and defense of public buildings, plans for risk assessments, and the like which would jeopardize the safety of personnel or the public generally or the security of any governmental facility, building, structure or information storage system is not subject to disclosure. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1.7.

Accordingly, any sections of the Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedure Manual regarding those confidential or sensitive matters would not be subject to disclosure and would not be treated as a public record. Only the portions of the manual which would not relate to those matters would constitute an available public record.

8. Do we have a problem with heroin in our schools?

This was answered by the school superintendent.

9. How can we embrace positive police/law enforcement/public relations?

We can improve them by going back to the teachings of our churches and the bible. We must respect each other.

10. How can we change "negative" attitudes if any?

Change starts from within. We have to be true to ourselves and our neighbors. We have to look past our prejudices and work together.

11. What is the proper protocol when a civilian is stopped by law enforcement?

This was answered by Sergeant Hardee

12. Hypothetically, if the driver's window is inoperable how should law enforcement handle the situation?

Answered by Hardee

13. Why is the economy so bad and don't you think poverty is a direct correlation to crime?

Answered by Commissioner Bullock

14. Why is there such a lack of opportunity in this county for those who want to make a decent living?

Answered by Commissioner Bullock

15. Why is there such a lack of diversity on the police force in Bladen County?

The Sheriff's office does not currently have any openings. We try to hire the best candidate for the job without regard to race or gender. Currently the Sheriff's office has the following breakdown of employees:

Total Personnel - 110

White - 73

Black - 26

Indian - 6

Male - 78

Female - 32

16. What was the new law passed about body cameras and will it help?

Answered by Chief Parrish

17. What should someone do if they feel a law enforcement officer mistreated them?

If you feel you have been mistreated you should go to the office or department the officer works for and file a formal complaint. You will be asked to write down exactly what happened and why you think you were mistreated. The complaint will then be investigated.