

Statement from Durham Police Department about Angry Neighbors with Paintball Guns

August 17, 2009

The Durham Police Department is aware of the news release sent out by Angry Neighbors with Paintball Guns that mentions concerns about speeding in neighborhoods.

The Durham Police Department enforces traffic laws and we plan to continue to be responsive to traffic concerns from residents throughout the city. We have recently focused on traffic enforcement in the neighborhood where these signs appeared this morning and residents have complimented us on our response.

While we are concerned about speeding in neighborhoods, the Police Department believes that these signs are inappropriate and potentially dangerous. We fear that these signs could be a distraction to even the most law-abiding motorists and possibly cause collisions.

Citizens who engage in the activities advocated by these signs could be subject to civil and even criminal sanctions. By law, if a motorist reasonably believed that his or her property might be damaged, the person who posted these signs could be subject to criminal charges.

We ask residents with concerns about speeding to contact our Traffic Services Unit at 560-4935.

The Pace Car program is inactive at this time due to budget and staffing constraints.

The Police Department's Traffic Services Unit has been active in the neighborhood this summer (these statistics are just from the Motorcycle Unit and do not include tickets written by other officers) –

July 2009

Mangum between Lynch and Trinity: 20hrs – 4 warning tickets – 33 citations.

E. Trinity between Glendale and Mangum: 14hrs – 3 warning tickets – 19 citations.

June 2009

Mangum between Lynch and Trinity: 7hrs – 0 warning tickets – 11 citations.

E. Trinity between Glendale and Mangum: 5hrs – 0 warning tickets – 11 citations.

In addition, a Booze-It-and-Lose-It Checkpoint was conducted in the area on July 1st as well, with the following results:

Booze It and Lose It Checkpoint on Mangum St just prior to Trinity Ave. Present at the checkpoint were Durham County Sheriff, Durham PD, SHP, ALE, and NCCU PD. The following citations and arrest were made:

DWI	3
Safety Belt Violations	1
Child Passenger violations	7
DWLR	33
No Insurance	2
Possession of Stolen Firearm	1
Possession Narcotics	1
Other Traffic Violations	26
Drug Violations	6
Other Criminal Violations	7
Wanted Persons Apprehended	1