



EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief: Henry A. King Jr.



Edenton Police Department to host Violent Crime Reduction Focused Deterrence Call-In

EDENTON, NC – October 17, 2023

The Edenton Violent Crime Reduction Focused Deterrence Call-In identifies persons committing acts of violence and invites them to a meeting with community members and law enforcement officials. This program is based on the accomplished research of criminologist David Kennedy. Kennedy piloted his program in Boston with Operation Cease Fire, and it is a strategy still used with great success in High Point, NC.

The Edenton model similarly uses three components: Citizens, Law Enforcement, and Community Resources.

The **citizens component** delivers a twofold message. Firstly: Violent behavior will not be tolerated in the community. Secondly: Citizens support law enforcement. The **law enforcement component** notifies violent offenders that any future crimes committed will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, to include maximum prison time. In the **final component** of the program, offenders are offered a variety of community resources to help them change their lifestyles and to stop committing violent crimes. The resources package is provided to them at the conclusion of the call-in.

Sixteen candidates have been invited to Edenton's **first** Focused Deterrence Call-In to hear the message. This Call-In is not a Q&A session and it is not a strategy to forgive offenders for serious past criminal activity. Instead, it is a promise to vigorously prosecute repeat violent and/or group offenders who continue to engage in violent activity. More than just a warning, this program is an offer by the community and law enforcement to assist those who want to change their lifestyles by delivering resources .

For further information regarding this program, the designated media spokesperson for this initiative is Sgt. Russell Michael. He may be reached at (252) 482-5133 ext. 106 or via rusty.michael@edenton.nc.gov.

