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TO: ECU Community
FROM: Scott Shelton, Chief of Police
RE: Downtown Shooting Incident

As many of you know, three persons were wounded by gunshots in the downtown bar area early Sunday morning. No ECU students were involved in the incident, but it is a reminder that members of the university community need to exercise caution and good judgment to keep themselves safe in some of the areas surrounding the campus.

A large number of ECU students patronize downtown clubs and bars and use the bus system for their convenience or walk from the TRUNA neighborhood or the University's Reade Street parking lots. ECU Police Officers are assigned to this downtown area each week from Thursday night through early Sunday morning. These deployments are due to the potential of violent acts, including heated arguments, physical assaults, and fights involving individuals and groups, gang-related incidents, display of knives and guns, and shootings.

Alcohol consumption and abuse is a common denominator in these violent incidents. While the ECU Police Department can and does monitor the downtown area and works closely with the Greenville Police Department, we will never be able to promise you will not become a victim of a crime. If you frequent the clubs and bars late at night and early in the morning, please understand that even if you consider yourself an innocent bystander, whether consuming alcoholic beverages or not, the probability of becoming a crime victim is increased.

The campus rate of serious crimes is nearly 30 times lower than that of Greenville. That is not to say that crimes cannot occur on campus or that Greenville is unsafe. Crime can occur anywhere at any time. Your ECU Police Department has increased patrols around campus and provides many crime-prevention programs; however each of us must take personal responsibility and understand the choices we make. Leaving the clubs and bars by 1:30 a.m., limiting alcohol consumption, traveling in groups, staying in well-lit areas in sight of police officers, and going directly to the buses, your home or your vehicle are all actions you can take to increase your safety and security.

Your ECU Police Department is dedicated to providing professional and responsive police services with integrity and respect that earns your trust. We are engaged in community-oriented policing which can only be successful when we all work together.