

THE GIST

Governor's Crime Commission Monthly Newsletter

Grants
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Training

New Commissioner - Jeffrey Smythe, NCDPS Secretary

Gov. Josh Stein appointed Jeffrey Smythe as secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety effective January 1.

Smythe has served as the director of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Division of the Department of Justice since August 2021. Before joining the Department of Justice, Smythe served as the chief of the Burlington Police Department, where he implemented initiatives focusing on officer wellness and preparedness, emphasizing de-escalation, addressing implicit bias and implementing behavioral health resources. Smythe began his career as a police officer with the Arizona State University Police Department in Tempe, Ariz. A Philadelphia native, he holds an undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and a master's degree from Northern Arizona University. He has also completed executive leadership development programs at the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and the FBI National Academy.



Galentine's Celebration

The Women's Center in Raleigh is hosting a fundraiser to celebrate empowerment, fun and community. This event will include food and beverages, interactive activities and networking opportunities, live and silent auctions and stories of resilience.

Event Details:

- Date: February 12, 2026
- Time: 6-8:30 pm
- Location: Millbrook Manor, 1705 E Millbrook Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609

To learn more about the event and register click [here](#).

Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January is Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. This month focuses on educating the public, raising awareness and increasing prevention efforts.

Governor Stein recognized this month by encouraging citizens to wear blue on January 6th and illuminating 11 state government buildings with blue lights from January 7-11. Read Governor Stein's proclamation [here](#).

Our Voice in Buncombe County published a [blog](#) about common misconceptions about human trafficking in honor of this month.

Find more information on human trafficking along with the National Human Trafficking Hotline [here](#).

2026 GCC Calendar

The Governor's Crime Commission has finalized the 2026 meeting calendar. All committee and commission meeting dates are included. More information about individual meetings including meeting links and agenda will be posted on the GCC website closer to the meeting dates.

Access the calendar [here](#).

JANUARY
**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**
PREVENTION MONTH



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Governor's Crime Commission
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY