

THE GIST

Governor's Crime Commission Monthly Newsletter

Grants Information Stakeholders Training

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is domestic violence awareness month. The 2025 theme is With Survivors, Always. This theme highlights the importance of partnership with survivors. Learn how to get involved [here](#). You can also visit the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence [website](#) to learn about local resources.



New Commissioner - Spencer Merriweather

Spencer Merriweather is district attorney for Mecklenburg County. He was appointed in 2017 by and elected to full terms in 2018 and 2022.



Merriweather previously served as an assistant district attorney prosecuting cases ranging from sexual assault and domestic violence to drug trafficking and homicides. Since taking office, he has emphasized victim-centered responses to domestic, sexual and child violence. He has also expanded access to restorative justice programs and served as a champion for The Umbrella Center.

Merriweather earned his law degree from the UNC-Chapel Hill and his undergraduate degree from Princeton University. He serves as chair for the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, vice president of the National District Attorneys Association and an executive committee member of the NC Conference of District Attorneys. He's an active member of the National Association of Black Prosecutors and a past president of the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation.

New Commissioner - Phil Byrd

Phil Byrd was raised on a tobacco farm in Guilford County. He earned a bachelor's degree in management and ethics from John Wesley College and graduated from the University of Louisville's Administrative Officers' Program. He spent 32 years as a sworn deputy sheriff with the Guilford County Sheriff's Office. During his career, he worked as a detention officer, patrol officer, detective, detective sergeant, lieutenant and captain. He commanded several divisions before his retirement in 2014. After leaving the sheriff's office, he was employed as a court security officer for the U.S. Marshals Service. From 2019 until 2025, he was a licensed private investigator. Byrd is married with two children and three grandchildren.



Subrecipient Highlight - InterAct

InterAct - Family Violence Prevention Center, provides domestic violence and sexual assault services to the Wake County area. Their services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, legal services, emergency shelter and counseling. This October, they are raising awareness of domestic violence. Learn more about InterAct's services [here](#).

Attend the 2025 Grant Writing Workshop

The Governor's Crime Commission will host its [annual grant-writing webinar](#) on October 29. Join us as we prepare for the next VAWA, VOCA, CJA, Title II and Byrne JAG application cycle.

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