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## **Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz Appointed to Governor's Gang Task Force**

*Kluttz to Provide Leadership in Development of Comprehensive Statewide Enforcement Program*

Salisbury, NC\_October 28, 2011 – Mayor Susan Kluttz has been appointed to serve on the North Carolina Governor's Gang Task Force. Kluttz received official word of her appointment from the office of Governor Beverly Perdue. The purpose of the task force is to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure a well-coordinated, statewide enforcement program, while increasing the flow of gang-related information among various law enforcement agencies, correctional institutions, and the judicial system. The mayor's appointment expires on June 30, 2012.

In written correspondence to Mayor Kluttz, Governor Perdue states, "I am most grateful for your willingness to serve the great State of North Carolina. Your leadership and commitment are critical to this Commission as a part of our efforts to strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for our citizens." Task force members will investigate and identify current and emerging gang issues, and investigate and identify policy changes to better prevent, mitigate, and address gang activity. The task force will recommend the legislative and executive action necessary to implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan and to make identified policy changes.

The Governor's Gang Task Force, established October 4, 2010, was created via North Carolina Executive Order No. 69. The task force is housed within the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, under the Division of the Governor's Crime Commission. The commission will report its progress, findings, and recommendations to Governor Perdue every six months, or more frequently, if necessary.

Mayor Kluttz was recommended for task force appointment due to her extensive work with gang prevention and positive youth intervention. In 2007, Kluttz led local citizens to community action following the tragic death of a Salisbury teen, gunned-down in gang crossfire. Over five-hundred citizens attended positive youth summits and offered feedback and support to organize efforts for deterring local gang activity. In addition, Kluttz has served as a charter member of Project SAFE Neighborhoods (PSN) Salisbury-Rowan for the last eight years. She has actively participated in door-to-door neighborhood canvasses and supported PSN Family Day events. During 2008, Mayor Kluttz co-chaired the Metropolitan Mayors' Gang Task Force with Mayor Bill Bell of Durham and successfully lobbied for gang legislation. In August of 2009, Mayor Kluttz

and the Salisbury City Council hosted a statewide summit on public safety at the Salisbury Station on Depot Street. Governor Bev Perdue and NC Attorney General Roy Cooper attended the meeting, entitled "Seamless Solutions to Urban Crime." Kluttz presently co-chairs the Metropolitan Mayors' Public Safety Committee and chairs the Gang Sub-committee for Mayors.

The initial meeting for the task force will take place on Thursday, November 10, at the Governor's Crime Commission Division in Raleigh. Mayor Kluttz said, "I am truly honored to have received this appointment to the Governor's Gang Task Force and look forward to serving on behalf of our citizens of Salisbury. By working together to identify current and emerging gang issues, we can better prevent and tackle gang activity in both our local communities and across the state." Kluttz adds, "We must continue to stand united in a strong approach to deter gang violence. Our children are our future and they deserve to reach their full potential. We must strive to protect them from gang involvement at all costs."

Salisbury Police Chief Rory B. Collins shares, "Mayor Kluttz is highly committed to the safety of our citizens and to the well-being of local youth. Her efforts to provide positive youth opportunities and to combat gang activity are paramount. The Mayor's leadership and vast experience will greatly strengthen and support the vital work of the Governor's Gang Task Force."

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