

OPERATION: **SAFE** COMMUNITY

February 2009 Update

Working Together to Make Memphis and Shelby County Safer

Ways you can help!

**Keep truant children
out of court and in school**

**Memphis City Schools
Truancy Hotline is 416-8111.**

Citizens of Memphis are encouraged to call if you see school-age students not in school.

Learn more about [mentoring](#) at the [Shelby County District Attorney General's Office Website](#).

Juvenile Court is looking for volunteers! Contact [Judy McEwen](#) for more information.

Sign up for Cyberwatch! [Cyberwatch](#) is a program developed by the [Memphis Police Department](#) that emails reported incidents, sex offenders, and active local warrants around a location of your choice. Additionally, you can report suspicious activity to the police.

**Public Nuisance Property
List Available Online**

Crime Reduction Updates:

Part 1 property crime and violent crime in 2008 were both down by 5.3 percent since 2006 in Shelby County.

Implementation of OSC's strategic plan to reduce crime began in 2007.

The reduction included drops in the city of Memphis of 6.6 percent in Part 1 property crime and 5.9 percent in Part 1 violent crime.

To read full coverage of this encouraging update on crime reduction in our community visit the commercialappeal.com.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

As an opportunity to engage our community, OSC will be providing updates on several bills being pushed that, if passed, will help to achieve our goal to be one of the safest communities of our size in the nation by the end of 2011.

The following three bills relate to **Strategy 3: Toughen state gun-crime laws** led by State Rep. John DeBerry and State Sen. Mark Norris.

**[SB 0929 by Senator P. Stanley \(HB 1194 by Rep. B. Rich\)](#)
AKA "Street Terrorism Bill"**

This proposed bill provides sentencing enhancements for certain crimes of force or violence if committed collectively by three or more individuals. [Read More>](#)

**[SB 928 by Senator P. Stanley \(HB 1195 by Rep. B. Rich\)](#)
AKA "Crooks with Guns Bill"**

The [Shelby County District Attorney General's Office](#) has provided a list of [nuisance properties](#) since 2002.

Operation Safe: Community (OSC) is a roadmap to make Memphis and Shelby County one of the safest communities of its size in the nation by the end of 2011. Utilizing 15 research-based strategies, the initiative is a guideline of how law enforcement and the citizens they serve can work together to make our community safe. It is a call to action for churches, neighborhoods, schools, government, business and the media. The 15 strategies start with law enforcement, but the success of the plan rests with each and every citizen.

Operation: Safe Community (OSC) is led by:
Acting U.S. Attorney Larry Laurenzi, District Attorney Bill Gibbons, Police Director Larry Godwin, Sheriff Mark Luttrell, Memphis Mayor W. W. Herenton and Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton.

The business leaders of Memphis Tomorrow are providing strategic support, coordination, and financial backing for the initiative.

The mayors of the cities in Shelby County support Operation: Safe Community.

Research and administrative support are provided by the University of Memphis' Center for Community Criminology and Research and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission.

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This proposed bill adds additional offenses to the definition "dangerous felony" for which there are enhanced sentences for employing or possessing a firearm during the commission of a crime. [Read More>](#)

[SB 925 by Senator P. Stanley \(HB 612 by Rep. J. DeBerry\)](#) AKA "Bill Enhancing Penalty for Aggravated Robbery"

This proposed bill enhances the penalty for committing an aggravated robbery with a firearm or explosive device by increasing it from a class B to a class A felony.

The following bill relates to **Strategy 4: Reduce the caseload per prosecutor in the D.A.'s office for more effective prosecution** led by State Sen. Jim Kyle and County Commissioner Mike Carpenter.

[SB 838 by Senator R. McNally \(HB 1402 by Rep. C. Fitzhugh\)](#) AKA "DA Staffing Bill"

This legislation, as amended, would create 12 additional assistant district attorney general positions statewide by October 1, 2009.

For a complete list of bills currently before the General Assembly, Senate and House floor session schedules or to view videos of the Legislative Days during Tennessee's 106th General Assembly visit www.legislature.state.tn.us/

Calendar of Events

Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, March 7th

11 a.m.

The Healing Center, 3885 Tchulahoma (Family Life Center)

Hosted by Councilman Harold Collins and Councilwoman Janis Fullilove this town hall meeting will allow the residents of District 3 to express their concerns. Invited guests include MPD Colonel Joseph Scott of the Mt. Moriah precinct. For more information please call 901-576-6797.

Victims Right's Dinner, Tuesday, April 28th

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Holiday Inn - University of Memphis

Guest speaker for the evening will be Jamar Banks. For more information or to make reservations please call the Shelby County Crime Victims Center at 901.545.HELP (4357).

OSC TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Strategy 5: Expand Drug Court program so that it operates consistently and at full capacity.

Team Leader: Mayor A C Wharton

In February, Drug Court graduated its 129th class from the

[OSC Team Highlights](#)
[Tune In](#)
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OSC IMPLEMENTATION ORGANIZATIONS

[Click here](#) to view the list of organizations that are responsible for leading the implementation of OSC's 15 strategies.

ARCHIVED E-MAIL

View past e-mails from Operation Safe Community by selecting an issue below:

[January 2009 Report](#)
[September 2008 Report](#)
[August 2008 Newsletter](#)

program! [Read More](#)>

TUNE IN

On the last Tuesday of each month, Operation: Safe Community is featured on Channel 3's "Live at Nine" hosted by Mary Beth Conley and Alex Coleman. This month Memphis City Councilman Kemp Conrad discussed the resolution he is co-sponsoring with Councilman Harold Collins to toughen Tennessee's laws on violent crimes committed with guns.

Councilman Conrad plans to take this resolution statewide to garner support from all of the major cities.

Be on the lookout for updates from OSC on this resolution.

STAY CONNECTED

Make sure your friends, business associates and neighborhood associations are connected to Operation: Safe Community!

[Click here to sign up](#) to receive the monthly newsletter.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Help us spread the word that there is a plan in Memphis and Shelby County to reduce and prevent crime. If your organization would like a speaker regarding OSC, please contact:

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