

June 2009 Update

Working Together to Make Memphis and Shelby County Safer

Ways you can help!

Become a [mentor](#) through the Shelby County District Attorney General's Mentoring-Based Truancy Reduction Program.

The Memphis Child Advocacy Center Education Department is offering free programs.

Programs include Child Safety 101, Parent Awareness Talks and Personal Safety Talks with Children.

For more information or to set up a presentation contact:

Keita Cooley
901-888-4362

kcooley@memphiscac.org

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

Sign up for [Cyberwatch!](#)

Cyberwatch, developed by [MPD](#), emails reported incidents, sex offenders and outstanding arrest warrants daily. Additionally, users can report suspicious activity to the police.

Public Nuisance Property List Available Online

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

Memphis City Crime Update: January 1 to May 2009

From January 1 to the end of May 2009, violent crime was down 12.2% and property crime was down 14.9% across the City of Memphis when compared to the same time period in 2006.

Shelby County Sheriff's Office Crime Update: January 1 to May 2009

From January 1 to the end of May 2009, violent crime was down 7.3% and property crime was down 21.1% across Shelby County when compared to the same time period in 2006.

Implementation of the strategic initiative to reduce crime, Operation: Safe Community began in 2006. Crime statistics and updates are systematically compared to 2006 as a benchmark for success towards full implementation of the 5-year plan.

TOP NEWS

Strategy 12: Implement proactive and coordinated "problem properties" system.

Team Leader: Director Earnest Dobbins, City of Memphis, Division of Community Enhancement

The Neighborhood Preservation Act strengthened by the 106th Tennessee General Assembly.

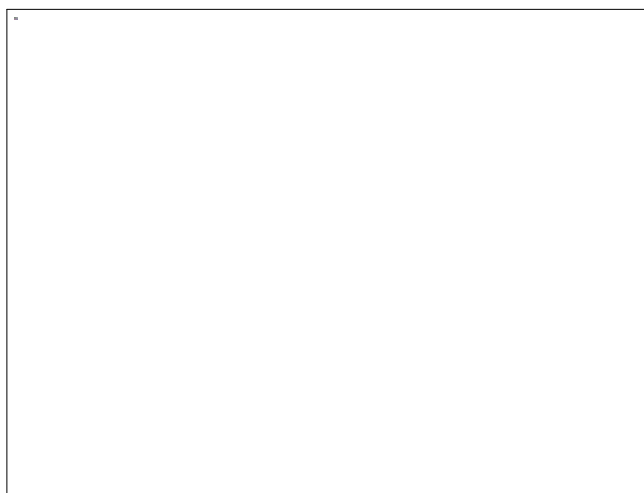


Photo Credit: Neighborhood Preservation Act's Photostream, Flickr

The Tennessee Neighborhood Preservation Act (TNPA) has been in effect since July 1, 2004 and enables Memphis area homeowners to take legal action against owners of neighboring residential properties or unoccupied residences when the property exterior is not maintained at the level of community standards.

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, businesses 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:

U.S. Acting Attorney Larry Laurenzi, District Attorney Bill Gibbons, Police Director Larry Godwin, Sheriff Mark Luttrell, City of 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 all 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.

STAY CONNECTED!

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

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

WANT MORE INFO?

During the 106th Tennessee General Assembly, which adjourned recently, a bill to toughen the TNPA sponsored by State Senator Jim Kyle and State Representative Larry Miller was enacted. This amendment allows the court to prohibit sale of a property that has been declared a public nuisance and it allows the court system to award reasonable attorney's fees to the party filing the suit.

"Problem properties" contribute to blight in Memphis and Shelby County as well as decreased property values for neighboring homeowners. A recent study in Philadelphia found that each home within 150 feet of an abandoned home declined in value by an average of \$7,627.00; homes within 150 to 299 feet declined in value by \$6,810.00; and homes within 300 to 449 feet declined in value by \$3,542.00.*

The TNPA and its recent amendment continues to be a vital component of Operation: Safe Community's Strategy 12 to implement a coordinated and proactive "problem properties" system.

*Anne B. Shlay & Gordon Whitman, *Research for Democracy: Linking Community Organizing and Research to Leverage Blight Policy*, at 20 (2004).

Family Safety Center, part of OSC's Strategy 14, getting closer to funding needs.

The Family Safety Center will be the recipient of \$403,700 in federal dollars from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Issued as part of \$29.6 million in Recovery Act monies coming to the state of Tennessee - the grant will considerably help ongoing fundraising efforts to open the Family Safety Center by winter of 2010.

The grant will fund operating costs for two years, including rent, janitorial services, telephone/internet and insurance services. "This is such good news," said Connie Ross, executive director of the Center. "We anticipate that these funds may be used to match a pledge of funds by the Memphis City Council."

JAG funds are designed to help states and local governments in support of a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system. Shelby County designated those funds as a part of the dollars that will flow directly to municipal governments.

Strategy 14 of Operation: Safe Community calls for the implementation of a coordinated domestic violence initiative. The Family Safety Center will be a centralized point of entry for a wide range of services to families in stress due to domestic violence or the threat of violence.

Memphis Shelby Crime Commission welcomes new team members

The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission welcomes two new members to its Board of Directors. Charles Traughber, Chair of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole, is joining Mayor A C Wharton as a Team Leader on *Strategy 11: Expand and coordinate adult offender re-entry programs*.

Also joining the Board is Steve Hornsby, Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS). Commissioner Hornsby will serve as the Team Leader on *Strategy 10: Expand juvenile offender re-entry programs*.

Additionally, Jeanne Moody joined the staff of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission

If your organization would like a speaker regarding OSC, contact:

Linda K. Miller
Interim Executive Director
Memphis Shelby Crime
Commission
spearheading
Operation: Safe Community
lmiller@memphiscrime.org
901-526-2600

Jeanne Moody
Administrative Assistant
jmoody@memphiscrime.org
901-527-2600

ARCHIVED E-MAILS

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

[June 2009 Update](#)
[May 2009 Update](#)
[April 2009 Update](#)
[March 2009 Update](#)
[February 2009](#)
[September 2008 Report](#)

Older Archives:

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as Administrative Assistant.

Our team continues to grow strategically to implement Operation: Safe Community and make Memphis and Shelby County one of the safest cities of its size.

TUNE IN

At the end of each month is featured on WREG Channel 3's "Live at Nine" hosted by Mary Beth Conley and Alex Coleman.

Today, Steve Barlow, Executive Director of the University Neighborhoods Development Corporation was the guest. Mr. Barlow, also a lawyer, has been integral in the proposition and recent enactment of the Neighborhood Preservation Act amendment during the 106th Tennessee General Assembly.

The Neighborhood Preservation Act continues to be a vital component of Operation: Safe Community's Strategy 12 to implement a coordinated and proactive "problem properties" system.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

School of Family Values and Restoration Domestic Violence Support Group for Women and Children

Hosted by World Overcomers Outreach Ministries Church
June - July 2009

The 15-week intervention program is designed for women and children who have either witnessed or experienced domestic violence. Currently being scheduled for June and July of 2009, the support groups are FREE and open to the public. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marquetta Smith at 844-3935.

Violence Against Women in Tennessee: Our Philosophy and Our Work

Hosted by Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
July 23 - 24, 2009

This two-day training workshop will discuss the history of violence against women, practical advocacy techniques, prevention and much more. To find out more information and to register for the training, please visit <http://www.tcadsv.org/trainingregistration.htm>

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

The 26th Annual National Night Out is a unique and impactful crime and drug prevention event. Each year hundreds of events take place in communities throughout Memphis and Shelby County as a celebratory stance against crime. To coordinate and register your community's event visit www.nationalnightout.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Project Safe Childhood and Family Violence Seminar

Hosted by the Office of the U.S. Attorney
Tuesday, September 22, 2009
Memphis, TN

Speakers for the event include Linda Cordisco Steele of the National Child Advocacy Center, Sarah Buel of the School of Law, University of Texas at Austin, Anne Seymour and Aurelia Sands Bell of Justice Solutions and Dan Newsom, Assistant United States Attorney. More details concerning event registration to follow.

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