

May 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

TOP NEWS

Strategy 1 of OSC, the MPD's Real Time Crime Center, Awarded Top Honor by the International Association of Chiefs of Police

RTCC Honored

Left to Right: Lieutenant John Harvey, Sergeant Ken Shackelford, Police Director Larry Godwin, Dr. Richard Janikowski, Major Jim Harvey

Recently the Memphis Police Department received top honors at the 33rd IACP-iXP Excellence in Technology Awards Program. The MPD's Real Time Crime Center was recognized for Excellence in Law Enforcement Communications and Interoperability. This award distinguishes an agency's implementation of technology to improve mission critical voice communications, interoperability and/or information/data sharing. As a result of this honor, the Real Time Crime Center will be showcased in the Police Chief Magazine and other IACP membership forums.

"We are developing cutting edge technology at the MPD that will prove to be a model for the nation. From our video surveillance, to Blue CRUSH, to the Real Time Crime Center, to license plate reader technology and beyond, we are pushing the envelope and extending technology, thereby making the MPD much more effective and the citizens of Memphis safer," said Director Larry A. Godwin.

This award is the result of the hard work of the men and women of the Memphis Police Department, the leadership and vision within the MPD, the department's Information Technology staff, Dr. Janikowski and the University of Memphis' Center for Criminology and Research, and the vision of Mayor W. W. Herenton to utilize technology for strategic crime reduction resulting in increased public safety.

Strategy 1: Deployment of police officers based on sound data and research.

Team Leaders: Director Larry A. Godwin & Sheriff Mark Luttrell

OSC Strategies Working Together to Make Memphis and Shelby County Safer

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:

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 connect to Operation: Safe Community!

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

WANT MORE INFO?

Peggie Russell, OSC Community Liaison is the tie that binds

Peggie Russell

One-year into her position as the University of Memphis' Community Resource Specialist for the Center for Community Building and Neighborhood Action and an Operation: Safe Community Liaison, Peggie Russell has proven to be a vital asset to the full implementation of Operation: Safe Community.

When we asked Russell for an overview of her involvement in the strategic plan to reduce crime, she provided us with an excel spreadsheet titled "Peggie Russell, JD, Roles" including 34 boxes and arrows representing leadership roles, memberships, boards she serves on, training and workshops attended as well as conferences where she's presented or contributed as a panelist .

"I am locating and bringing together the community resources for many of OSC's remaining 14 strategies so that low level drug offenders, former gang members, juvenile delinquents, their families and their communities all have the necessary resources needed to succeed," said Russell.

The Memphis Drug Market Initiative, as part of Strategy 6 - implementation of a comprehensive gang intervention plan, is being executed in late 2009. This initiative, modeled after a successful program first adapted in High Point, NC, is designed to close targeted drug markets and suppress the violent and gang-related crime associated with these markets. Russell oversees the program's intervention component which utilizes families, friends and victims directly affected by low level offenders to engage offenders in dialogue concerning the harm they are doing to the community and the "second chance" opportunity they are being provided.

One of the many tactics on Strategy 7, the establishment of a comprehensive school safety initiative, is G.R.A.S.S.Y. (Gang Reduction Assistance for Saving Society's Youth). Implementation of the community-based juvenile gang involvement reduction program began in all 14 high-incident schools in February 2009. Plans are underway to implement an intensive pilot in the North Memphis community which encompasses six high-incident schools.

With Russell's assistance a collective of mentoring opportunities, outreach workers, intervention teams, clinicians, the Department of Children's Services and JustCare 180 (Strategy 9 of OSC) will be engaged to provide juveniles effective resources within their community to turn their lives around.

"We are working diligently to engage communities and their existing resources in our initiatives. It will take our entire community to make Memphis and Shelby County safer," said Russell.

More Info:

Peggie Russell is currently facilitating gang awareness presentations to engage the faith-based community in Operation: Safe Community's gang intervention and prevention strategies. For more information, or to have Ms. Russell present to your congregation, organization or alliance please contact prussell1@memphis.edu.

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.

This past Wednesday Pierce Ledbetter, CEO and president of LEDIC

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

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Memphis Shelby Crime
Commission
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Memphis, TN 38105
901-527-2600

lmiller@memphiscrime.org

www.operationsafecommunity.org

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:

- Select -

Management Group revisited Live @ 9. Ledbetter was joined by Autumn Ridge Apartments property manager, Debra McIntosh and tenant Pamela Isom.

The guests discussed the initial success of Project SAFEWAYS, an initiative to reduce criminal and gang activity within apartment communities, which was implemented as a pilot program at Autumn Ridge Apartments in late March.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Tennessee General Assembly is winding down and most of the bills supporting Operation: Safe Community were held in committees or placed behind the Governor's 2009 budget.

They can be considered again in the next session of the 106th General Assembly which will reconvene in January 2010.

Below is the current status of the two remaining bills.

Strategy 12: Implement coordinated problem properties strategy led by Director Earnest Dobbins.

[HB 1847 by Rep. Miller L \(SB 1830 by Sen. J. Kyle\)](#)

AKA "Neighborhood Preservation Act"

Addresses the issue of vacant, neglected and abandoned properties that are a source of blight in Memphis and Shelby County.

SB Current Action: 5/28/2009 Companion House Bill substituted

HB Current Action: 5/28/2009 Passed Senate, Ayes 31, Nays 0

Fiscal Note: none

Special Note: The Public Safety Coalition, of which MPD Director Larry Godwin, District Attorney Bill Gibbons and Sheriff Mark Luttrell are members, is also supporting the following bill:

[HB 2193 by Rep. DeBerry J \(SB 2115 by Sen. M. Norris\)](#)

AKA "Bill Enhancing Penalties for Repeat Aggravated Burglary Offenders"

All aggravated burglaries a defendant commits within a 24-hour period count as separate prior convictions for purposes of determining if the defendant is a multiple, persistent, or career offender under the criminal sentencing reform act.

SB Current Action: Placed on Senate, Finance Ways & Means
Committee calendar for 06/02/2009

HB Current Action: Placed behind the budget

Fiscal Note: \$191,600

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/

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