

# Operation Safe Community Input and Contributions

## ***Introduction***

*Operation Safe Community* was developed and endorsed by a very large and diverse number of citizens and representatives from government, law enforcement, businesses, neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, schools and universities, social service organizations, and youth development providers. Over 800 attendees came together for town hall meetings, focus groups, work sessions and the final Crime Summit to guide and endorse the *Operation Safe Community Strategic Agenda*, and the voices of 100 youth were heard through the Memphis Shelby County Youth Congress.

In addition, the OSC Strategic Agenda was developed largely by incorporating planned or existing strategies vetted by community experts and/or proven successful through pilot programs. Over 60 different community agencies and other experts have been developing these strategies over the past few years.

## ***Community Input***

Five separate community input meetings for business leaders, neighborhood leaders, faith-based leaders and citizens were held in spring and fall, 2006. More than 400 individuals attended these five meetings. In November, 2007, over 400 individuals attended a full day Crime Summit to review the OSC Strategic Agenda and pledge their support for implementation. In addition, inputs from over local 100 youth regarding youth violence submitted as postings on the Youth Congress Electronic Forum, in partnership with the Ghandi Institute for Nonviolence, were reviewed.

## ***Operation Safe Community Partner Organizations***

The following organizations served as lead agencies responsible for coordinating the planning of the 15 *Operation Safe Community* strategy teams. Numerous staff and other stakeholders from these organizations participated in intensive work sessions to develop and finalize the OSC Strategic Agenda:

- City of Bartlett
- City of Collierville
- City of Germantown
- City of Memphis
- City of Millington
- JustCare for Kids
- Memphis Area Legal Services
- Memphis Child Advocacy Center
- Memphis City Schools
- Memphis Police Department
- Memphis Shelby County Juvenile Court
- Memphis Shelby Crime Commission
- Shelby County District Attorney's Office
- Shelby County Government
- Shelby County Drug Court
- Shelby County Schools
- Shelby County Sheriff's Office
- University of Memphis Center for Community Criminology and Research
- U.S. Marshal Service
- UT Health Science Center, Dept. of Preventative Medicine

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### *“Building Blocks”: Community Initiatives incorporated into Operation Safe Community*

Most OSC strategies were either in planning or development before the OSC initiative was launched.

These include:

- Project Safe Neighborhood
- Memphis Police Department’s Blue Crush Initiative
- Advocacy for Tougher Gun Laws and More Prosecutors
- Memphis and Shelby County Drug Court
- The District Attorney’s Truancy Mentoring Program
- Memphis City Schools and Shelby County Schools Safety Initiatives
- Juvenile and Adult Reentry Programs
- JustCare for Kids system of care for youth with behavioral disorders
- Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence Court Reform Initiative
- Family Safety Center

In addition to the OSC partners listed earlier, more than 60 other community organizations were involved in the above initiatives:

- AGAPE Child & Family Services
- Alpha Maxx Health Care
- Associated Catholic Charities
- AYFD/Youth Habilitation Center (YHC)
- Babylove (MMHC)
- Baptist Women’s Hospital
- CAAP, Inc. DV Program
- CASA
- Community Legal Center
- Compass Behavioral Health
- Comprehensive Counseling Network
- Crime Victims Center
- Tennessee Department of Human Services
- Exchange Club Family Center
- Family Services of the Mid-South
- Innovation Counseling & Consulting
- Juvenile Court of Memphis & Shelby County
- Lakeside Behavioral Health
- LeBonheur Center for Children & Parents
- LeBonheur Children’s Medical Hospital
- Memphis & Shelby County Health Department
- Memphis Child Advocacy Center
- Memphis City Schools Mental Health Center, Division of Exceptional Children & Health Services
- Memphis Housing Authority
- Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center
- Memphis/Shelby County Community Children’s Service Agency
- Mental Health Summit
- Midtown Mental Health Center, Inc.
- MIFA
- New Directions, Inc.
- Parkwood Behavioral Health System
- Partners for the Homeless
- Renewed Hope in Christ Ministries
- Saint Francis Hospital
- Shelby County Community Services Agency
- Shelby County Crime Victims Center
- Shelby County Government Pre-Trial Services
- Shelby County Schools
- Shelby Training Center
- Solid Rock Christian Church
- Sophia’s House
- Southeast Mental Health Center
- Strategic Behavioral Health
- Tennessee Department of Children’s Services
- Tennessee Voices for Children
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Urban Youth Initiative
- Victims to Victory
- Whitehaven Southwest Mental Health Center
- Youth Villages
- YWCA Abused Women’s Services