

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Memphis is ranked fourth nationally in violent crime for cities with populations over 500,000, according to a University of Memphis study; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Memphis believe that crime is the number one issue facing our city; and

WHEREAS, a crime summit was held in November 2006 with the leading government officials and a plan to implement 15 research-backed strategies was developed entitled Operation Safe Community, which provides as follows:

- Strategy 1: Deploy police officers based upon sound data and research.
- Strategy 2: Expand Project Safe Neighborhood law enforcement partnership model.
- Strategy 3: Toughen state laws for gun crime.
- Strategy 4: Reduce the case load per prosecutor.
- Strategy 5: Expand Drug Court program.
- Strategy 6: Design and implement a comprehensive gang intervention strategy.
- Strategy 7: Sustain and expand student safety initiatives in public school systems.
- Strategy 8: Implement mentoring-based truancy reduction program.
- Strategy 9: Launch the JustCare 180o program to “turn around” youth.
- Strategy 10: Expand juvenile offender re-entry programs.
- Strategy 11: Expand and coordinate adult offender re-entry programs.
- Strategy 12: Implement proactive, coordinated “problem properties” system.
- Strategy 13: Build communication campaign that promotes tough consequences for crime.
- Strategy 14: Implement coordinated domestic violence initiative.
- Strategy 15: Implement “Fugitive Safe Surrender;” and

WHEREAS, since the summit, measurable progress has been made on the issues involving sentencing, prosecution, and policing and we must now turn our attention to prevention and the root causes of crime; and

WHEREAS, there is nothing more important that this City Council can do than rally our community to create an environment where our children choose education over crime and provide assistance and opportunity to overcome contributing factors that lead to criminal behavior such as poverty, values, lack of adult supervision and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, this City Council should call upon the wealth of experience of Memphians in the private and public sectors to supplement the crime summit and to coordinate and energize our community in a determined effort to lead our children away from criminal life.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a committee be formed with council members and selected members of the public and private sectors to create a plan and organize a supplemental summit within 12 months to coordinate and energize our community in a determined effort to create an environment where our children choose education over crime.