

# City of

# MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL

## Memphis

### Inter Office Memo

TO: Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee Members

FROM: Reid Hedgepeth

DATE: March 25, 2008

RE: Police Recruitment

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As you know, today was the Operation Safe Community Progress Briefing at the FedEx Forum. Our federal, state and local leaders involved in this partnership are able to demonstrate that progress has been made and we have a good plan in place. However, we all know there is much more work that needs to be done. Violent crimes are committed in all parts of Memphis every day. Last night the manager of the Pizza Hut on Summer near Highland was shot with a sawed off shotgun during a robbery. I was present at the Oak Court Mall where a man who had been shot in the last 10 or 15 minutes was left in the passenger seat of a vehicle in the parking garage. The officers on the scene expressed to me that they need help. In order to prevent burn out in the ranks currently on the job, we must hire more officers.

We will again discuss recruiting police officers at the next public safety committee meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> and I hope members will provide suggestions. Please submit to me and your fellow committee members in writing your ideas to solve our police recruitment challenges and any supporting research and documentation prior to the next meeting. I would like to compile a list of actions we can take to improve recruitment and together determine the effectiveness and feasibility of each one. It is important to formulate an action plan to help solve our crime problem as we prepare to make fiscal year 2009 budget decisions.

We must act now. Like myself, I am certain that you constantly hear from your constituents that we cannot live with the crime rate we have now. Our property taxes are already the highest in state by far and we cannot continue to burden our taxpayers and expect them to stay in Memphis. In today's briefing it was stated again and again that our crime problem is absolutely a quality of life issue and the largest barrier to achieving our vision of what Memphis can be. Thank you and I look forward to continuing this discussion.

cc: All councilmembers