

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Whereas, Operation: Safe Community is an historic and ambitious crime abatement initiative spearheaded by top government and law enforcement leaders and its intention is to make Memphis-Shelby County one of the safest communities of its size in the nation by the end of 2011; and

Whereas, meaningful crime reduction requires nurturing our children and their families so that they become positive and productive contribution members our community; and

Whereas, Operation: Safe Community established 15 research-backed strategies for how law enforcement – both by itself and in specific types of community partnerships- can make a meaningful reduction in crime; and

Whereas, *Strategy 9: Launch the Just Care 180 program to turn around youth* is an initiative to take programs to where the population in poverty and, sometimes crime, has moved to; A small pilot has been started in Soulsville through a grant and additional funding of *\$800,000 annually* for pilot programs in Soulsville and Hickory Hill would allow that program to be fully operational and to also be implemented in Hickory Hill where other programs such as Safeways are starting up; and

Whereas, *Strategy 13: Build a communication campaign that promotes tough consequences for crime* is based on University of Memphis professor Richard Janikowski's research data to indicate that violent crime decreased during the previous media campaign and increased when the funding for that campaign was depleted; If the past is any indication, a fully funded and sustained media campaign of *\$500,000 annually* can contribute to a decrease in violent crime; Federal funds as well as private funds have been raised to date for this effort.

Whereas, *Strategy 14: Implement a coordinated domestic violence initiative* relates to fact that Memphis is experiencing a record number of homicides this year involving family violence and *1.2 million* would enable the Family Safety Center (FSC) to open its doors by the end of June 2009 offering comprehensive services to families experiencing violence on the operational model of the Memphis Child Advocacy Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Memphis City Council hereby fully supports the appropriation of \$2.5 million of the City's reserves to continue the City's participation in Operation: Safe Community.