



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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July 23, 2009

Foreclosure Crisis Leads to New Sheriff's Office Partnership

The Sheriff's Office and Memphis Area Legal Services have teamed up to assist the growing number of people in Shelby County facing property foreclosures and evictions.

"Some renters have not been told by landlords about a pending eviction. Our goal is to ensure property owners, especially tenants, understand their legal options before they're evicted," said Shelby County Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Sheriff's Deputies and Civil Process Servers are now delivering pamphlets about the foreclosure and eviction process to property owners and renters summoned to court. **"The foreclosure and eviction process begins with a written notice to the person who owns or sometimes rents the property. It's vital all letters about a property are opened and read. Should people have questions, they may contact our office for assistance,"** said Webb Brewer, Director of Advocacy for Memphis Area Legal Services.

From the year 2000 through 2008, there was a 180% increase in foreclosures in Shelby County. During the last six months of 2008 through the end of last month, **9,047** people were evicted from homes they were renting. Sheriff's Deputies and Sheriff's Civil Process Servers handled **1,261** of the evictions and private process servers, not employed by the Sheriff's Office, delivered **7,786** eviction notices.

The **"Helping Families Save Their Homes Act"** was signed into law this past May by President Obama. The law now requires a 90-day notice to tenants of some foreclosed properties before they can be forced to leave their homes.

(End of Release)