



## **News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office**

**Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Sheriff**

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 201 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

**Public Information Officer: Steve Shular**

- Office (901) 545-5532 FAX (901) 545-3310
- E mail: [steve.shular@shelby-sheriff.org](mailto:steve.shular@shelby-sheriff.org)

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**August 8, 2009**

### **Shelby County Jail Men's Facility Again Receives National Accreditation**

The men's facility of the Shelby County Jail has again earned the honor of being accredited by the American Corrections Association (A.C.A.). An accreditation hearing was conducted by the A.C.A. in Nashville today.

**"This is a very significant event for Shelby County. The Shelby County Jail men's facility first earned accreditation from the A.C.A. in 2006. Now three years later, we can be proud that our jail continues to be recognized as one of the best in the nation,"** said Shelby County Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Chief Jailer James Coleman and members of the jail accreditation team attended today's hearing in Nashville. They answered questions about the almost 400 safety and security standards required for accreditation.

**"Again receiving accreditation by the A.C.A. demonstrates a true commitment by those who work at the jail. Our employees have worked tirelessly to maintain the highest levels of security and daily operations at the men's facility,"** said Chief Coleman.

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A team of inspectors from the A.C.A. visited the jail this past June to review the policies, procedures and, perhaps most importantly, the staff's knowledge of operations.

Reviewers found the men's facility met **100%** of the 60 mandatory A.C.A. standards and **98%** of the 320 non-mandatory standards for the safety and security of inmates and staff. Jails must meet at least 90% of the non-mandatory standards to be accredited.

The women's facility of the Shelby County Jail at 6201 Haley Road in east Memphis will be eligible for reaccreditation in 2010. The women's jail first received accreditation in 2007.

The A.C.A. reports only about 13 percent of the jails and prisons in the United States meet the rigorous requirements to receive national accreditation.

**(End of Release)**