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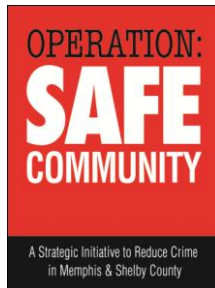
**MAYOR A C WHARTON AND SHERIFF MARK LUTTRELL TAKE ON  
NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES IN OPERATION: SAFE COMMUNITY**

**Traugher and Hornsby also added as Team Leaders**

MEMPHIS, TN – The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission today announced city of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton would take on a new leadership role on the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) crime reduction initiative. Mayor Wharton will serve as the new Team Leader on the strategy to implement a proactive and coordinated approach to “problem properties.” Most of the public agencies involved in implementing the strategy are city government agencies.

For more than a year, Mayor A C Wharton has served as a Team Leader on the strategy to expand the drug court program. Shelby County Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. will assume leadership of this strategy, which relies in large part on county funding. The drug court, under presiding Judge Tim Dwyer, is an efficient and cost-effective treatment program. Out-patient treatment in the program averages \$8 per day compared to almost \$100 per day in the Shelby County Jail.

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**MAYOR WHARTON, SHERIFF LUTTRELL AND OSC (PAGE 2)**

Mayor Wharton will continue to lead the strategy to expand the adult offender re-entry programs. Charles Traughber, chairman of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole, will serve as Co-Team Leader of this strategy with Wharton.

The Commission also announced that Steven Hornsby, Deputy Commissioner of Juvenile Justice for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services will serve as Team Leader of the strategy to improve the juvenile offender re-entry efforts.

Chair of Operation: Safe Community and Shelby County District Attorney General Bill Gibbons called the new leadership roles an important step towards reaching the OSC goal to make our community one of the safest of its size by the end of 2011.

“Operation: Safe Community is concluding its third-year at a high point. Part I crimes are down 16.8% in the city of Memphis and 1.3% in the unincorporated parts of Shelby County, which is proof that the plan is working. We are trying to make sure we have the right people as Team Leaders for all of the strategies. These are individuals who have stepped up to take key leadership roles in getting this plan implemented.”

Founded in 1997, the Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit organization that has engaged more than 60 public and private agencies to implement the OSC plan's 15 research-based strategies. For more information visit [www.operationsafecommunity.org](http://www.operationsafecommunity.org).

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