IDENTIFY. ENFORCE. BUILDING.

Memphis Police Department
Crime Prevention/Community Policing
Programs Overview

The Office of Crime Prevention is a unit of the Memphis Police Department (MPD) that is governed under the division of MPD's Special Operations. The Office of Crime Prevention was established in May of 2011 in order to develop, coordinate, and manage all community-oriented and community outreach initiatives affiliated with the Memphis Police Department.

Crime Prevention Mission Statement:

To strengthen, empower, and cultivate proactive partnerships within the community utilizing innovative crime prevention techniques and educational programs.

Crime Prevention Vision:

We vision a solid level of trust, confidence, and mutual respect with the community as we together develop positive alternatives and solutions to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Memphis.

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The Office of Crime Prevention continuously maintains a highly visible presence within the community and strives to provide quality services, resources, and educational opportunities that promote positive community and police relations, along with providing guidance on personal safety and crime prevention strategies.

The following information is a *brief outline of a **few** programs* the Memphis Police Department's Office of Crime Prevention has established. Along with our mission and vision, our goal is to reduce crime with emphasis toward juvenile violent crimes, and to build upon community relationships to accomplish a reduction in overall crime so that the citizens of Memphis can continue to live, work and play, without apprehension.

COP (Community Outreach Program)

COP was established on March 12, 2012, through the restructuring of the Co-Acts (Community Action Unit). This restructure reallocated manpower allowing MPD to disperse officers in key locations that had been identified as high-crime areas. COP's mission is to identify the root causes of juvenile violent crime in an effort to provide accurate enforcement and community redevelopment. The COP Unit addresses specific problems through a three-pronged approach: Identification, Enforcement, and Education. Its objectives are: to identify and combat root causes of violent and juvenile crime; to cultivate and establish collaborative partnerships among community groups and organizations toward the deterrence of crime; and to motivate and promote public awareness to juveniles within our community through the implementation of educational and crime prevention programs. Although this unit has target areas, officers within the unit can also be effectively utilized citywide without affecting the manpower of any uniformed station. The COP Unit is utilized to implement and or supplement most of the department's community programs.

Below are a few programs that are implemented through MPD's COP Unit:

Citizens Police Academy

Citizens Police Academy is a program implemented in Memphis in 1993 to develop a partnership agreement between the Memphis Police Department and the Citizens of Memphis. The Citizens Police Academy Program was designed to offer an educational program in the classroom as well as a Ride-Along Program with Patrol Officers, to provide responsible Citizens with a comprehensive knowledge of police operations, practices, and objectives. This program was established to inform Citizens of prevention, intervention, and to form a partnership with law enforcement to combat crime within our communities. The following are graduate stats: 2016: 167 Citizens; 2017: 130 Citizens; 2018: 131 Citizens and in 2019: 131 Citizens.

Clergy Police Academy

Understanding that the faith-based community is an important asset to our community, the Clergy Police Academy (CPA) was established in 2011. The CPA is a 12-hour curriculum (2 hours per week for six weeks) that encompasses faith-based leaders and law enforcement to build stronger relationships of understanding. Since 2011, MPD and the local faith community have worked to share vital information that assists both the community and law enforcement in achieving crime prevention and crime reduction. Building broader community relationships with faith-based leaders serves as the guiding mission of this program. This program has held ten sessions and graduated 408 Clergy members.

Memphis Parks and Recreation Community Centers

COP has assisted Memphis Park and Recreation since 2016 with community programs as well as providing a safe environment for visitors. COP officers patrol the area of the parks and centers and are stationed at several locations to ensure the safety of both the swimming pools and community centers. In the summer months, coverage is provided for approximately 20 locations. Throughout the remainder of the year, coverage is provided for eight community centers six days per week. Additionally, COP officers often work with the community centers' personnel to host community events, job and health fairs, and, as of recent, established a food pantry that has been very beneficial to community members.

Boxing Program

The Memphis Police Department has utilized this program since the 1950s to provide inner-city kids with an outlet as a means to deter crime and teach anger management as well as respect. It also provides a facility for youth to improve health, fitness attitude, confidence, and discipline, helping them to become positive community leaders. Over 100 people utilize the gym yearly, which was boosted by the implementation of the COP's mentoring youth program, Outside the Box. The following are some of the program's highlights from 2016 to 2019. In 2016: (2) Golden Gloves Winners, (1) Title Tournament Winner, (1) US Games Gold Medal Winner. In 2017: (2) Golden Gloves Winners, (1) Title Tournament Winner, (1) Ringside Tournament Winner, (1) joined MFD. In 2018: (1) Golden Glove Winner, and in 2019: (3) Golden Glove Winners, (1) P.A.L. Winner.

More about "Outside the Box"

The Memphis Police Crime Prevention Unit has collaborated with various organizations and the Memphis Park Services to initiate a Summer Youth Boxing Program, Outside the Box. This program utilizes five different locations throughout the City of Memphis and averages about 100 youth participants annually. The training sessions run from June - August and consist of learning the fundamentals of boxing, warm-ups, and hitting the heavy and speed bags. This program provides a positive alternative for students to interact with others, teach self-discipline and conflict resolution skills, promote positive self-esteem, and also educate students on the importance of physical fitness and nutrition. Outside the Box has not only gained attention from the citizens of Memphis but has also been visited by professional fighters such as Andy Urich and Roy Jones.

Ride Outside the Box

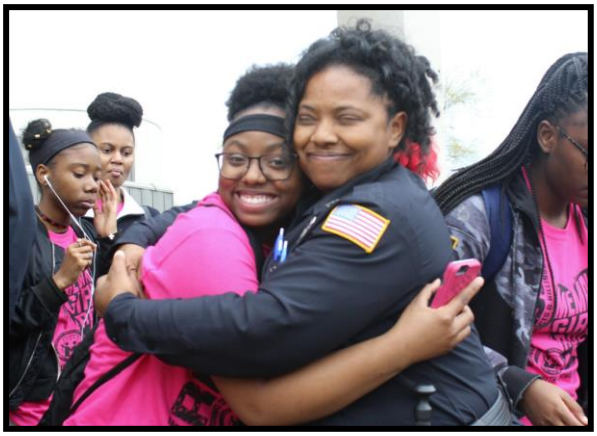
Ride Outside the Box is a summer bike program that is geared toward students ages 8 to 17. This program promotes bike safety, nutrition, exercise, and self-esteem. Students are taught how to repair bikes as well as the importance of following the rules of riding bikes to reduce the number of students injured and killed each year in bicycle accidents. In 2019, approximately 20 students enjoyed interacting with MPD officers while riding in the Overton Park area and throughout the Green Line into Shelby Farms Park.

Memphis Youth Crime Watch

The Memphis Youth Crime Watch program was implemented in November 2013 in the form of a conference that was held at For the Kingdom Camp and Retreat Center located in Old Allen Station. This initiative began with approximately 220 students from 12 to 14 different middle and high schools and has grown expeditiously over the years. The Memphis Youth Crime Watch program provides students with various classes and presentations that address issues relative to violent crime: Bullying, Domestic Violence, Drugs, etc. The students are challenged to identify crime problems within their respective community and school. With the assistance of counselors and COP officers, students learn how to design a system to address the crime issue as well as how to host preventive educational programs for fellow students. Since 2013, there have been over 3, 284 participants attend MPD's Memphis Youth Crime Watch.

Memphis Girls Rock

Memphis Girls Rock is a program that was created in 2018 by COP Officer KaSandra Smith. Officer Smith and other COP officers implemented this program as an empowerment conference for girls in grades 7 - 12. This program provides information regarding self-worth and discusses topics to address trauma issues plaguing our young girls. Building upon MPD's relationship with the faith-based community, COP partners with local churches, which allows officers to use their facilities to host this event that continues to grow annually. In 2018, 2000 girls attended Memphis Girls Rock, and in 2019 an additional 1600 girls participated.



Annual Black History Knowledge Bowl

The Memphis Police Department's annual Black History Knowledge Bowl was implemented to serve as an educational tool to teach our youth about the significant contributions of African-Americans. This experience also helps to enhance young minds, develop a good competitive and team spirit, and encourages good study habits. Additionally, the Black History Knowledge Bowl allows the Memphis Police Department to build positive relationships with teenagers in the community. In 2016 – 180 youth participated, 2017 – 200 youth participated, 2018 – 161 youth participated, and in 2019 -167 youth participated.

Feed the Needy

The Memphis Police Department has partnered with Feed the Needy for 25 years. This organization is a non-profit 501.C3 that provides food to families for the holidays, primarily Thanksgiving and Easter. In 2018, Feed the Needy, with the help of MPD, distributed at least 3,500 food boxes, which fed approximately 30,000 people. The cost per food box is approximately $100, which can feed a family of seven for about two weeks. For Easter, in 2019, Feed the Needy distributed 2,000 food boxes feeding 9,000 people and for Thanksgiving distributed 3,500 food boxes feeding 32,000 people. MPD's COP Unit continues to support Feed the Needy by hosting an annual bowling tournament fundraiser.

MEMPHIS Summer Camp

The Memphis Summer Camp is an annual event that is hosted by the COP Unit. This program typically involves approximately 50 youth who attends a five day camp that is filled with fun activities and educational programs. The goal is to teach children about making positive life choices.

In 2019, COP teamed up with Ridgeway Station, which doubled the number of attendants. Over 100 youth attended in 2019.

Lunch with a COP
Lunch with a COP is an annual event that began in 2014. This event is a collaborative effort with MPD and Building Futures, Inc. During this event, officers take time out to have lunch with youth and their parents. In 2019, this event occurred in the Frayser Community at Denver Park.

Shop with a COP
Shop with a COP is an annual event where the COP Unit teams up with Walmart to give back to the youth in our community. In 2019, COP officers, along with Ridgeway Station officers, took 50 kids shopping for Christmas gifts. These children were identified by our community partners as being less fortunate throughout the Christmas holiday. In an effort to make these children's Christmas wishes come true, these officers spent several hours shopping, mentoring, and fellowshipping with our local youth.

Police Interaction Team (PIT)
The Police Interaction Team is a team of COP officers who have developed a curriculum to teach children of all ages how to interact with law enforcement. The PIT hosts events throughout Memphis utilizing Shelby County Schools and neighborhood community centers.

The Office of Crime Prevention and Boy Scouts of America
The Office of Crime Prevention has two active Boy Scout troops that involve approximately 15 boys. Officers with COP spend countless hours mentoring these young men by teaching responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of both indoor and outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs. Thus far, two boys from MPD's troop have achieved the level of Eagle Scout and have received scholarships to various colleges. These groups meet, attend camps, and earn merit badges from June through August.

Explorer Program

In 2018, the MPD redeveloped the Explorer Program consisting of boys and girls from the ages of 14 – 17. These children are given an opportunity to see firsthand what it is like to choose a career in the law enforcement filed. They are exposed to law enforcement activities to broaden their understanding and knowledge of police service and participate in training that builds character, citizenship, and fitness. MPD currently has ten Explorers and has graduated six.

Supply Drive

The Office of Crime Prevention, along with various community partners participates annually in a Back to School Supply Drive. In 2019, the COP Unit handed out over 1500 backpacks stuffed with school supplies.

Blue Read

The Blue Read program involves COP officers going into local libraries and Shelby County Schools to read to elementary-age children. The officers interact with the students by reading books and answering questions. The children are also encouraged to read books to officers. Additionally, to further the importance of literacy, MPD has joined with First Lady Haslam's Read20 program, which provides the COP Unit and all police stations with books for children to read. Officers hand out these books throughout the community, and they are also available at every police station.

Additional MPD Programs:

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is an education program taught in elementary schools that seeks to prevent use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and other negative behavior. In 2017 MPD Officers taught in 23 schools and graduated 2,300 students. In 2018 it was taught in 25 schools and graduated 1,912 students, and in 2019 it was taught in 23 schools and graduated 1,588 students.

Gang Resistance Education and Training G.R.E.A.T.

Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) is an evidence-based and effective gang and violence prevention program built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula. The Program is taught in conjunction with the D.A.R.E. program and is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior. In 2017 it was taught in 12 school and graduated 2,120 students, in 2018 it was taught in 11 schools and graduated 2,688 students, and in 2019 it was taught in 8 schools and graduated 2,055 students.

Future Leaders of Tomorrow

Raines Station Precinct hosts an annual event, Future Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Initiative that encourages young people in the community to step up, be leaders, and be the difference. Topics of discussion included Homelessness, Freedom (rape intervention), Boys to Men (male mentoring), Worth (female encouragement), Peer Power (empowerment), and Leadership.

Park, Walk, and Talk

Memphis Police officers are parking their cars and taking to the streets for MPD's Park, Walk, and Talk program. The program is designed to get officers out of their patrol car so that they can speak one on one with citizens in our community. The Park, Walk, and Talk program is a directed patrol that supports the department's community policing efforts by encouraging police officers to interact with the citizens of Memphis.