

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

Memphis Mayor Paul Young Launches Black Mayors' Coalition on Crime. See article on sports page 4

Crime Commissioner President Bill Gibbons examines ways to curb crime in Memphis and Shelby County... from sports-Military page 2

duction in non-fatal shootings compared to 2020. New Orleans has adopted a version of focused deterrence that identifies and targets known bad actors responsible directly or indirectly due to their influence over others for a large part of violent crime. New Orleans had 193 homicides in 2023 – a drop from 266 in 2022. The city

Opinion

recorded only five homicides in December of 2023, going almost two weeks with no homicides at all. It has done so with only about 900 police officers – 600 short of its compliment of 1500 officers. New Orleans is very similar to Memphis in its demographics, culture, and root causes for much of its crime.

Of all the approaches being taken by other cities, Omaha's approach seems to be the most comprehensive. The Omaha 360 effort is unique in terms of the scope of partners involved and its holistic approach. It involves short-term enforcement, deterrence, and intervention but also includes employment, education, and housing components. Over 100 stakeholders come together each week to discuss how to address gun violence. The group deals to some degree with who should respond to specific incidents, but it also looks at the broader picture. An overriding goal is for law enforcement and the community to work together. Since its formal inception in 2009, gun violence has decreased by 70 percent, and the

Focused deterrence. Using American Rescue Plan funds, former Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland launched a city-led focused deterrence effort as part of his Violence Intervention Program. Boston originated the approach, but forms of it are being used in New Orleans, Omaha, Detroit, and Indianapolis. All are based on the premise that a fairly limited number of people are responsible for a large percentage of crime.

clearance/solve rate for homicides in 2023 was 100 percent – an indication of what strong relations between the community and police can do.

All of these cities are doing some things that work, and we can learn from all of them. The good news is that we are already doing – or attempting to do – many of the same things. So, we don't need to re-invent the wheel. Here are some things we've already got in motion that can work, that are similar to what other cities are doing successfully, but that admittedly need to be tweaked or improved upon, scaled up, and sustained.

Focused deterrence. Using American Rescue Plan funds, former Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland launched a city-led focused deterrence effort as part of his Violence Intervention Pro-

gram. Boston originated the approach, but forms of it are being used in New Orleans, Omaha, Detroit, and Indianapolis. All are based on the premise that a fairly limited number of people are responsible for a large percentage of crime.

The current Memphis effort is composed of two parts. One part is a call-in approach through which individuals on probation or parole for committing a violent crime are called to a meeting with law enforcement, other public leaders, faith leaders, and social service providers. They are given a dual message of offering help if they want to change their behavior and move in a different direction but also conveying that they will be held accountable if they continue to engage in violence. The second part involves what is called a custom notification through which law enforcement and others meet individually with a person identified as someone at high risk of engaging in violence. For the most part, these are individuals who are not on probation or parole.

The University of Memphis Public Safety Institute is conducting an initial evaluation of the city-led focused deterrence effort, and this initial evaluation should be completed soon. It will be posted on the Public Safety Institute website at <https://memphis.edu/psi>. Based on the evaluation as well as input from key stakeholders such as our new city mayor, changes could be made in implementa-

tion. Additionally, for the effort to have a major impact, it will need to be scaled up and sustained over time.

Intervention to head off retaliatory violence. Another part of the city's Violence Intervention Program initially using American Rescue Plan funds is designed to head off retaliatory acts of violence. The effort has street, school, and hospital components. BLOC Squad Memphis (formerly the 901 BLOC Squad) is the leading entity for this effort and has about 50 trained intervenors working with it (called "peacemakers" in the Indianapolis version).

The UofM Public Safety Institute is also conducting an initial evaluation of this effort, with completion expected soon, and it will be available on the Public Safety Institute website. As with the focused deterrence evaluation, the evaluation of this part of the city's Violence Intervention Program may suggest some modifications.

A large percentage of our homicides and aggravated assaults are gang related and retaliatory in nature. This kind of effort has a proven track record of success if implemented correctly, scaled up, and sustained over time. A key to implementation is buy-in from both law enforcement and the community.

Data-driven deployment of law enforcement personnel and technology. The UofM Public Safety Institute has conducted three assessments of data-driven policing by the Memphis Police Depart-

ment and one assessment of data-driven policing by the Shelby County Sheriff's Office. They are on the Public Safety Institute website. Every assessment has shown positive results in the short run. The long term impact is more problematic primarily because the additional resources placed in crime hotspots have to be moved to new hotspots – a prime example of the challenge faced with stretching inadequate resources.

To be as effective as it can be, we need more police officers to saturate data-driven, identifiable *All of the approaches mentioned above have worked IF implemented correctly, brought to scale, and sustained over time. Practically every city that has turned around its crime challenge has used some or all of these approaches. All of them are included in the local Safe Community Action Plan.*

crime hotspots and to beef up MPD's investigative bureaus, which should result in better clearance or solve rates. Use of technology such as license plate readers and cameras should also be data-driven. (The private sector can help make this happen by registering or integrating their cameras into the ConnectMemphis camera network operated by MPD or, in areas of the county outside of Memphis, a similar camera network operated by the Shelby County Sheriff's Office.) Local law enforcement seems to

be doing a good job of deploying its available resources based on historical data. The next step could be deploying resources based on a system of predictive analytics, which involves predicting where crime is likely to occur based on a number of factors, including but not limited to historical crime data. I served as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security for six years, and one of the first things I did was help institute use of predictive analytics by state troopers as a way of reducing traffic fatalities by making sure they were in the right places at the right times to have the maximum impact. Using predictive analytics, Tennessee had a decline in traffic fatalities for five straight years. I'm convinced it saved lives.

Effective handling of juvenile offenders. Juvenile crime is a growing concern, and there is strong public demand for action. One thing that can help is intensive supervision and rehabilitation services for juvenile offenders, especially the serious ones.

The reality is that the state's Department of Children's Services has very limited bed space in secure facilities for serious juvenile offenders. Out of necessity, most will be supervised in the community. With the help of a state grant to the Memphis Police Department and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, intensive community-based supervision and rehabilitation services are starting

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NSSF's Protect Liberty PAC receives contribution from National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW) to protect 2nd Amendment rights

From The Outdoor Wire

The NSSF's Protect Liberty Political Action Committee (Protect Liberty PAC) received a major contribution from the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW) that will be utilized to help identify and support the election of candidates who are dedicated to preserving

and protecting liberty, freedom and the Constitutional rights of all Americans. The \$25,000 contribution from NASGW will buoy Protect Liberty PAC's efforts ahead of the November 2024 election to ensure voters in key battleground states and congressional districts across the country are informed about candidates who will fight for their

Constitutional rights and not carry out a "woke," progressive, far left political agenda that threatens those rights. "We are extremely grateful for NASGW's generous contribution and belief in Protect Liberty PAC's mission to elect candidates who will fight for our liberties and freedoms, including the Second Amendment," said

"Political leaders are supposed to fight on behalf of the American people and be a safeguard against efforts to squash the rights enshrined in the Constitution. Too often today we see these same political leaders betray that solemn duty and instead attack the very traditions and freedoms law-abiding Americans revere," stated NASGW President Kenyon Gleason.

Lawrence G. Keane, Protect Liberty PAC's Treasurer. "There's a long road ahead before Election Day in November. We hope more businesses in the firearm, ammunition, hunting, recreational and shooting sports industry will consider following NASGW's lead and support Protect Liberty PAC – their industry's super PAC."

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against efforts to squash the rights enshrined in the Constitution. Too often today we see these same political leaders betray that solemn duty and instead attack the very traditions and freedoms law-abiding Americans revere," stated NASGW President Kenyon Gleason. "NASGW and our membership representing firearm wholesalers, manufacturers, independent sales representatives, media and service providers in the shooting sports industry is proud to support NSSF's Protect Liberty PAC. We strongly encourage every company and their employees throughout our industry to join us in supporting Protect Liberty PAC so it has the resources come November to protect our cherished freedoms and liberties."

Protect Liberty PAC is a federally registered "super PAC" founded in 2023 by NSSF. Protect Liberty PAC is an independent-expenditure only political committee and can accept unlimited personal and corporate contributions from companies in or

outside of the industry, so long as they do not have federal contracts. Protect Liberty PAC will expressly advocate for the election or defeat of specific candidates and that advocacy will be completely independent of any candidate or political party.

Contributions to Protect Liberty PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Federal law requires Protect Liberty PAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and the name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Protect Liberty PAC can accept unlimited personal and corporate contributions. However, contributions from foreign nationals, federal contractors, national banks, and federally chartered corporations are prohibited.

For more information or to contribute to Protect Liberty PAC, visit www.protectlibertypac.com.

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Deadline to apply is May 15, 2024 by 4:00 PM

APPLICATION LINK TO APPLY:

Crime Prevention Grant - The City of Memphis (memphistn.gov)

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