

## The Citizens of Memphis Are Tired

When people are tired, those that can take action. They move. They arm themselves. They lose trust in public safety and security. They soon learn they only have themselves to rely on. Police response times have a hierarchy. The most important calls take priority. Lesser calls keep getting pushed back – understandably.

We still respect the police and have an inherent trust in them – but they are severely understaffed – They are tired too.

Perhaps they need to be moved to a tier one priority and everything else moved to a tier 2 or lesser hierarchy. If we don't have a secure city, there is no city.

Let's pay attention to who we elect. Listen to what they are saying. Is it meaningless phrases or reality?



“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.” –

Theodore Roosevelt

## Crime in Memphis: A Community Solution

Weekly, Memphis residents and et al, see the same headlines: shootings, robberies, road rage, assaults, and murders. On social media, the way the platforms operate, it sounds even worse. We've become so accustomed to the reports that we barely react anymore. Politicians promise solutions, introduce programs, and declare progress - but what we see and hear tells a different story. Many have altered their routines, their activities and their lives because of real and perceived risks.

### The Myth of Solutions

We are told that crime is “going down,” but generally we don't feel that. Our senses tell us its going in the opposite direction. If government agencies and bodies truly understood the problem, and their subsequent initiatives were the answer, we would have had a handle on this by now.

Despite decades of research, endless statistics, and millions spent on programs, we are no closer to a solution now than we were at any time in the past.

### Criminals make their choices.

They act in their own best interests, using available choices they have within the environment they know. **Exactly like the rest of us do.** Passing laws isn't going to deter them. The risk of punishment has already been factored into their lifestyle, and they accept that. Programs cannot break through that culture once they commit to that lifestyle.

### The Limits of Intervention

Prevention programs, only make a dent. Saving even one life matters, but the reality is that significant impact eludes us. Programs targeting older teens are often too little too late. Many parents feel helpless. Every year, the age at which young people start drifting toward crime gets incrementally lower. While we will continue to invest in millions into interventions that serve political profiles more than actual results. The intentions are real, but our expectations are unrealistic.

### The Path Forward: A Community Solution

The future of Memphis lies in its people, not its politics. Programs that strengthen parenting, foster community accountability, and mentor youth from a very early age offer the best chance for change.

The majority of people in our neighborhoods want the same things we do - safer streets and the ability to live free of fear. No one is rooting for the bad guys here.

Lasting change will come when the community – not just the “community leaders” - steps up and reclaims our community. It's going to take the involvement of everyone.

In the meantime, we will continue to prepare for the worst possible scenario through arming ourselves, learning personal defense and waiting for someone else to come to our rescue.

That's our perspective. 