



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office
Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor

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Rape Crisis and Crime Victims Centers Move Into Family Safety Center

Victims of rape and other crimes now have one convenient place in midtown Memphis to find help. The Shelby County Rape Crisis Center and Crime Victims Center have moved to the first floor of the Madison Professional Building at 1750 Madison Avenue, which will soon become the home of the Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County.

For years, the Rape Crisis Center (formerly known as the Mid-South Sexual Assault Resource Center) and the Crime Victims Center operated across town from each other.

"We've taken another important step in the development of the Family Safety Center of **Memphis and Shelby County. Now, clinicians and counselors from the Rape Crisis Center and Crime Victims Center work just down the hall from each other. That takes an added burden off victims and makes it easier for our staff to assist each other,**" said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Mayor Luttrell will host a "Ribbon Tying Ceremony" this **Thursday, December 8, 2011, 1750 Madison, First Floor**, at **2 p.m.**, to officially dedicate the new centralized location, which has plenty of parking and is close to MATA bus lines.

Additionally, the Citizens' Dispute Center will move into the building by the end of February 2012. The center processes applications for restraining orders for people who are stalked or feel threatened.

The administrative offices of the Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County opened several months ago on the 5th floor of the Madison Professional Building. The idea for the "one-stop" services center arose from a community-wide effort started in 2004 and was later endorsed at a crime summit in 2006 known as *Operation Safe Community* (OSC).

Since then, Mayor Luttrell and other government and community agency representatives have attended monthly OSC meetings. The organization tracks the progress of 15 strategies designed to reduce crime in all areas of Shelby County. The Family Safety Center is one successful manifestation of the work of the *Operation Safe Community* initiative.

(End of Release)