



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office
Lee Harris, Mayor
Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

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SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES GUN SAFETY COUNCIL
The Shelby County Council on Gun Safety will convene law enforcement, community advocates, and gun owners from across our community to promote gun safety and reduce gun deaths.

Shelby County, TN – Today, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris announced a new effort to reduce gun deaths in Shelby County. The Shelby County Council on Gun Safety will be comprised of both adult and youth representatives from the community at large, local government, healthcare, and law enforcement to act on gun safety. Applications for Shelby County residents to join Mayor Harris' Gun Safety Council are open now until July 15, 2022. Council members will meet twice monthly with a goal of aligning government, law enforcement, and community efforts to promote gun safety. Shelby County hopes to bring people from all walks of life, including gun owners and other concerned community members.

Over the last several years, the Tennessee General Assembly has consistently rolled back existing gun regulations. Since state lawmakers passed a bill allowing people to keep loaded guns inside their vehicle without a permit, guns stolen from cars annually has skyrocketed in Memphis. Local governments have limited options to reduce the proliferation of guns and the tragic increase in the unintended shootings by youth. In recent years, Memphis has topped the list for unintended shootings by youth. Tennessee has the 11th highest rate of gun deaths in the United States.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “Our community is eager to find ways to promote gun safety. Right now, we are seeing a proliferation of guns on the street and accidental gun deaths. There are common sense steps we can take to improve gun safety while respecting the rights of gun owners.

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We want to work with our community to figure out ways to raise awareness, encourage best practices, and reduce the risk of tragedy. It will take all of us.”

Shelby County Health Officer Bruce Randolph: “Gun violence is an epidemic. Like with any epidemic, there are practices that can be put in place to mitigate risk and prevent the worst effects. I’m glad to lend my experience in public health to this important community council.”

Jerri Green, Policy Advisor to Mayor Lee Harris: “As someone who has had gun violence impact my life three times, I am proud to work for an administration that understands thoughts and prayers alone are not enough. We must have policy and action that support concrete ways to make our community safer. I look forward to the creation of this Council and working alongside them on initiatives that support gun safety.”

John Tilmon, Shelby County Gun Owner: “I’ve been around guns and enjoyed shooting sports for most of my life. Every responsible gun owner stresses safety because we know that a gun has the power to end a life, and an unsecured weapon is a potentially deadly risk. I have no doubt that using gun locks and other common-sense practices will save lives.”

Interested Shelby County residents can apply online any time before July 15 at
www.shelbycountyttn.gov/CouncilOnGunSafety

(End of Release)