

COMMUNITIES STOPPING CRIME

A Guide to Helping Community Leaders Fight Crime

Alton R. Williams



***“AT THE END OF THE DAY,
A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND
VOCAL PUBLIC IS THE MOST
EFFECTIVE MECHANISM FOR
ENSURING THAT THE JUDGES
AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
EFFECTIVELY PROTECT THE
COMMUNITY AND GUARANTEE
THEIR RIGHTS...”***

Bobby Carter, Former Criminal Court Judge, Report: ***Shelby County
Criminal Court Tried Fewer Cases, Takes Too Long to Reach Trial***

Introduction

African American communities are plagued with crime all across the country today like never before. To reverse this trend, communities and community leaders must understand the crux of the problem. We must address the ideological and philosophical issues that go all the way back to Washington, D.C., and the soft-on-crime policies in our major urban cities.

We must also deal with social, political, governmental, and spiritual problems to reduce the crime problem in our communities. Family structures must be strengthened, parenting skills must be developed, and racial strife and division must be conquered.

This little booklet is intended to help communities discover the core issues that must be addressed to see change. Many communities across this country are meeting to find solutions to stop the increase in crime plaguing our neighborhoods and cities. There is lawlessness all across our land and no respect for authority anymore. Young criminals are entering stores and businesses in broad daylight now and taking or vandalizing property right in front of store owners, their employees, and even security officers. Today, criminals have no fear of the police. They are emboldened because they do not expect the police to come. They know they will be released on the streets the same day or the next day if arrested.

Since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and subsequent calls for defunding the police by liberal community activists and city elected officials, law enforcement has changed, maybe forever. Police are now being maligned and attacked all over the country. Our good officers are now retiring or quitting law enforcement to find other jobs or establish businesses. Now, our police force has been depleted. Here in Memphis, after the savage beating of Tyre Nichols, many more have left the force. Police officers have backed away from doing their jobs because their hands are tied. If they have to use aggressive force, they will be labeled as racist, hating their own people, or using unjust tactics.

We can get more burglar alarms and blue flashing light sky cops on our streets, but what will it accomplish if the police do not come? These measures no longer scare criminals because they know the police are not coming, and if they are arrested, they will be out the next day. Some will wear a mask and a hoodie to hide their identity and still rob cars with the blue light flashing right before them. A different kind of criminal roams the streets today.

A political, social, and economic ideology called Socialism has infiltrated our criminal justice system at all levels. Socialists want young criminals to continue to destroy our communities. This has all been planned. It intends to overturn our American way of life, freedom, and free market enterprise. Until we understand this, we cannot understand what is happening with the crime problem. The District Attorney, the criminal courts, the judges, judicial commissioners, law enforcement, some of our elected officials, and our state representatives are all playing a role in the increase in crime. Until communities voice their concerns and put voting pressure on them, there will be no change in the crime problem.

Crime will only continue and worsen if there are no consequences for one's actions. Hopefully, this book will help communities understand where and what the problems are and what must be done to impact positive change.

NOTE: Of course, the news changes daily. Therefore, some information herein may change over time.

WHY THE INCREASE IN CRIME IN OUR COMMUNITIES?

1. *Our Nation's Criminal Justice Reform*

One major problem is our criminal justice system reform in Memphis and many of our major urban cities nationwide. It supports an ideology that will not sentence or detain young black men for the crimes they commit. It states that black people are oppressed, and therefore, they are automatically victims. In other words, they cannot help their behavior because of their history of slavery, racism, segregation, and poverty, so they should not be arrested or detained at all. This means they cannot be responsible for their choices or behaviors.

Some businesses now permit young black criminals to get away with robbing their stores as a means of reparations and giving back to them. Young criminals are encouraged to commit more crimes because they do not expect any repercussions or consequences. They no longer fear the police. Victims of crime now suffer as if they are the ones who committed the crimes. Criminals today get more rights and protections than law-abiding citizens do. That is a dangerous place for us to be.

They note the racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Of course, we can all agree that there have been some racial disparities. However, after George Floyd died in 2020, the call to defund police began, and things have gotten much worse.

There must be some reform. We must find a way to balance fairness in our criminal justice system and arresting and prosecuting legitimate crimes for public safety. Many DAs nationwide will not charge any crimes, including violent ones. Instead, they are letting them back out into the streets. Google or click this story for more details: [Manhattan District Attorney Announces He Won't Prosecute Certain Crimes \(CNN\)](#).

2. *Progressive Liberal District Attorneys Who Are Soft on Crime*

Why is crime going up in major black urban cities? Progressive prosecuting district attorneys or attorney generals support policies that protect criminals rather than the victims or their families.

They all argue that most misdemeanors should not be prosecuted and have pushed for eliminating cash bail. These issues have led to a revolving-door criminal justice system where offenders, and even violent crime offenders, are immediately released back into the streets. Now, they have become emboldened to commit more crimes.

Their social justice theory states that the criminal justice system has mistreated blacks. Because of slavery, racism, prejudice, past treatment of blacks, and victimization, black criminals should not have to be detained in prison to bring about racial equality. Yet, black communities are now left unsafe.

Now, police officers are discouraged from making arrests. What is the point of arresting someone if prosecutors in a city will not charge criminals or seek to detain them without bail? Now, arrests are decreasing. Here is one incident that involves a prosecutor in New York and the black mother of a son who had been killed by criminals who were not arrested.

YouTube: MUST SEE: Mother of Murder Victim Unloads on Alvin Bragg During NYC Hearing, Gets Applauded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqIVYONe7Gk>

YouTube: NY Crime Victim's Mother Has a Message for Alvin Bragg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-v4o5GVxdA>

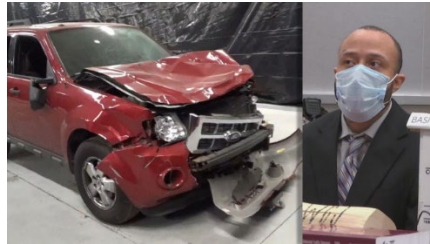
3. District Attorneys Around the Nation Who Are Soft on Crime

Crime rates have skyrocketed because progressive prosecutors refuse to prosecute crimes. Crime and murder rates have gone up as high as 40% in some cities, with populations between 100,000 and 250,000 people. Many horrific crimes and tragedies could have been prevented if these district attorneys had done their jobs and protected the public.



Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm

Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm released a repeat, dangerous criminal named Darrell Brooks, who once used an SUV to run down the mother of his child. Chisholm released Brooks on \$1,000 bail after this offense. Guess what happened? Later, Brooks used the same SUV to drive through a Christmas parade, murdering six people, including an eight-year-old boy.



Darrell Brooks and SUV

Who's the Man Who Drove SUV Into a Christmas Parade?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dd1q2Zz67ds>

Brooks should not have been on the street. He should not have been behind the wheel. DA Chisholm knew that Brooks was a violent criminal who used that same red SUV as an instrument of violence against his ex-girlfriend. Yet, DA Chisholm released him on \$1,000 bail. If Brooks had not been out on such a low bail, this unfortunate tragedy during a Christmas parade in November 2021 would never have happened. The eight-year-old boy would still be with us.

Our communities don't need prosecutors who endanger the very communities they are sworn to protect. Yet, they jeopardize people's lives by not prosecuting or detaining criminals. The problem again is progressive, liberal prosecutors who let violent criminals roam the streets.

This ideology emanates from a corrupt, distorted form of social justice that stems from a socialist agenda. Socialism uses criminals to tear down an existing free society. These people are nothing but trained, educated Marxists who hate freedom. The government's role in a free society should be to keep its law-abiding citizens safe. Marxism (socialism) opposes this.

When progressive prosecutors fail to prosecute criminals, the national government can often charge criminals federally. By elevating these radical DAs who are soft on crime, crime rates are rising. Cities with progressive district attorneys or attorney generals are often soft on crime and sometimes do not demonstrate care about the safety of their citizens.

U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts Rachel Rollins



Rachel Rollins, U.S. attorney and chief federal prosecutor for Massachusetts, is also soft on crime. In a policy memo, she listed 15 crimes in which prosecution should consistently be declined or dismissed without conditions. These crimes included, but are not limited to the following:

- **Trespassing** – Rollins says that they do not prosecute trespassing. This means that people can trespass on Massachusetts citizens' property, and the law will not protect them. Remember, socialism does not support private property ownership.
- **Shoplifting** – This is why we see videos of people walking into stores and taking what they want. Socialism does not support thriving businesses. This is why they will not prosecute.
- **Driving with a Suspended License** – This is no longer a crime in Massachusetts.
- **Breaking and Entering into a Vacant Property** – This means that criminals can break into any vacant property and damage it if they want without penalty. Squatters now have more rights than property owners. A homeless person can trespass on a Massachusetts citizen's front lawn, set up a tent, threaten a family's children, sell them drugs, and rob stores (business).
- **Resisting Arrest** – This action will no longer be prosecuted. Therefore, all power and authority are now taken away from law enforcement.

Trespassing, shoplifting, theft, disorderly conduct, receiving stolen property, driving with a suspended license, breaking and entering with property damage, wanton, and malicious destruction, threats, minors in possession of alcohol, marijuana possession, possession with intent to distribute, and non-marijuana drug possession, will no longer be prosecuted in Massachusetts, as well as in other Democratic-run cities.

Rollins is only one of many DAs in our nation who believes in the same ideology regarding the prosecution of crime. They call this social justice. Essentially, *"Since we did not allow you to commit crimes in the past, we will permit you to do it now to give you social justice."*

Google: Meet Rachel Rollins, the Rogue Prosecutor Whose Policies Are Wreaking Havoc in Boston





<https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/commentary/meet-rachael-rollins-the-rogue-prosecutor-whose-policies-are-wreaking>

Once again, one key reason for the surge in crime in U.S. cities is the rise of progressive prosecutors (district attorneys or attorney generals) in major cities. They are both black and white, male and female). These prosecutors have taken over in cities like:





**Portland, OR
DA Mike Schmidt**

Portland, Oregon – Violent protests began in 2020 after the death of George Floyd. Buildings were burned down, and businesses were robbed and looted. DA Mike Schmidt dropped charges against hundreds of people who were initially arrested for offenses such as interfering with cops, disorderly conduct, criminal trespassing, and rioting. He even made it harder to prosecute assaults on cops.

 <p>Contra County, CA DA Diana Becton</p>	<p><u>Contra County, California (outside San Francisco)</u> – DA Diana Becton said they will now consider the needs of the looters when weighing criminal charges. Why? They believe that criminal charges were constructed to control black people and people of color.</p>
 <p>San Francisco, CA DA Chesa Boudin</p>	<p><u>San Francisco, California, aka Bay City</u> – Former DA Chesa Boudin adopted rules to make it harder to prosecute suspects. He is the son of a robbery cop killer.</p>
 <p>Chicago, IL State Attorney Kim Foxx</p>	<p><u>Chicago, Illinois</u>—Their state attorney, Kim Foxx, vowed to cut the jail population. Over three years, she dropped 35 percent more felony cases than her predecessor.</p>
 <p>Buta Biberaj, Loudon County, VA</p>	<p><u>Loudoun County, VA</u> – Prosecuting attorney Buta Biberaj announced she would no longer be involved in prosecuting misdemeanor charges. She can now focus on more serious crimes such as murders, rapes, and domestic violence.</p>

Most voters focus on big races such as the President, Governor, Congress, or Senate. District attorneys and attorney generals are critical to public safety. The chaos will continue if voters do not vote for prosecutors who enforce the law and protect the people. Crime rates will keep rising, more people will die, and none of us will be safe.

It is now racist to prosecute a person for a crime. Other USA progressive prosecutors who are soft on crime are:

 <p>Marilyn Mosby, Baltimore, MD</p>	 <p>Larry Krasner, Philadelphia, PA</p>
--	---



Kimberly Gardner, St. Louis, MO



Alvin Bragg, Manhattan, NY



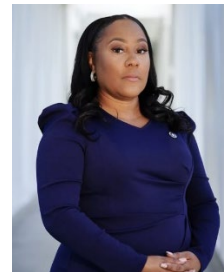
Letitia James, New York State Attorney General



George Gascon, Los Angeles, CA



Pamela Price, Alameda County, CA



Fani Willis, Fulton County (Atlanta), GA

All these district attorneys and other progressive elected officials have the same political ideologies.

Google: [**New York Post-Growing Numbers of District Attorneys Are Out to Undermine the Law**](#)

4. The Man Who Is Financing Many Progressive District Attorneys



Billionaire George Soros

The Devil Behind the Dollars

Billionaire George Soros and other wealthy individuals provide the campaign funding for these prosecutors, district attorneys, and attorney generals. They realize they can get the most bang for their buck by funding progressive district attorneys who refuse to enforce certain policies or laws with which they disagree. They can control prosecutors rather than undertake the more difficult and expensive task of electing sympathetic state legislators to change state laws.

Soros contributed millions of dollars to political action committees that support these prosecutors in nine states. What are their goals? They want to reverse the criminal justice system because they say it is racist. Soros also funded many of the Black Lives Matter activities and leaders.

What About the Black Victims?

This means that Soros and his group support criminals, which makes them anti-victim. This is a distorted form of social justice. They want to allow criminals to commit whatever crimes and robberies they want. Yet, I ask, *“What about black victims who are hurt/injured and/or killed? What about black families who do not get justice for their deceased loved ones? What about black business owners who lose it all when their businesses are robbed and looted? Is there no social justice for them?”*

Once these prosecutors are elected, they do not seek individualized justice for the people they are sworn to protect. They forget the victims and instead coddle criminals.

No More Bail

In this way, they can usurp the role of the legislative branch of government by declining to prosecute entire categories of crimes. They are eliminating cash bail and doing away with pre-trial detention without bail. These people believe in releasing criminals with little or no bail.

So, what will these prosecutors do? Go for the money and carry out the wishes of billionaires like Soros, or love the people they are sworn to protect? As the O’Jays once said, they usually go for the **MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY - MONEY!**

It’s About the Policies

These woke prosecutors are a big problem in America. I’m sorry, but it’s the truth. Crime stats are not high in conservative-run states. Their policies support freedom and the protection of the people. Black people, until we understand the policies and research our prosecutors’ records before voting, we will continue putting the same people back in office and getting the same results. At some point, we have to say, *“Enough is enough.”* Let these prosecutors (DAs) know they must change, or we must vote for someone else.

To see where Soros’ dollars are going, Google:

[***New York Post – George Soros Spent 40 Million Dollars Getting Lefty District Attorneys, Officials Elected All Over the Country \(January 22, 2023\)***](#)

[***The billionaire behind the curtain: DA Steve Mulroy denies funding claims after billionaire George Soros revealed as possible campaign donor \(actionnews5.com\)***](#)

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland’s Criticism of Our Criminal Justice System - Crime in Memphis



Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland and Memphis District Attorney Steve Mulroy

Now that we understand the philosophy that undergirds the actions of progressive prosecutors, we can now understand what is happening in Memphis.

On July 25, WMC-TV 5 aired a report with Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, sharing his concern about a woman who was accused of firing shots at a police officer in November 2022.

In Strickland's newsletter, he said, *"If this is not a clear example that we have a problem in our criminal justice system, I do not know what one is."* Strickland further said this is one of the many times the DA's office has dropped the ball on prosecuting violent crimes.

[Google: Shelby County DA Accuses Memphis Mayor of Misleading Public on Crime July 25, 2023 – WMC-TV 5](#)

Strickland also mentioned a case that was plea bargained out in December 2022, where a man shot at a police officer three times. The police officer had to hide behind a tree. Thankfully, he was not hurt. The man knew he was a police officer. The police officer did not shoot his gun. They gave that man probation. **"NO PRISON TIME,"** said Strickland.

Strickland said that penalties need to be harsher for criminals. I agree with this. If criminals do not suffer repercussions or consequences for their actions, they will be encouraged to commit crimes again, probably more severe than their previous crimes.

In March 2023, Mayor Strickland released a scathing letter on the Memphis Criminal Justice Center being a revolving-door justice system. He sent this letter to every Shelby County Criminal Court Judge, every Shelby County General Sessions Court Judge, and every Shelby County Judicial Commissioner. To read his entire letter, please Google:

[Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland Releases Scathing Letter on Revolving Door Justice System](#)

In summary, he complained about the frustration of Memphis police having to arrest the same individuals repeatedly. He said that the bonds for criminals are set too low. Criminals know the bonds are low, so they will commit more crimes. He also spoke about weak sentences with no prison time for one-fourth of criminals who are arrested for crimes of aggravated assault, such as:

- One defendant shot his roommate with a gun.
- Another defendant did a drive-by shooting.
- Still, another defendant shot a gun at a victim and her child.
- One defendant stabbed a victim.
- Another defendant shot a victim in the stomach.

These people only got probation but no prison time.

In 2022, 2300 people were arrested for stealing or breaking into cars. Strickland stated that virtually all of them are currently back in the community.

He stated that our judicial system is broken. Because of a lack of deterrence, criminals are bound to commit future and possibly worse crimes.

Thank you, Mayor Strickland, for taking a bold stand. It is important to note that Mayor Strickland is a Democrat but a moderate Democrat, which we rarely see anymore. I call him a good, old-fashioned Democrat with values.

The problem is with today's distorted social justice ideology. As stated in previous writings in this series, progressive, left-wing liberal district attorneys and attorney generals believe that the criminal justice system is racist. They think it was initially set up to control blacks. However, today, the criminal justice reform protects the criminals but leaves the victims as if they have committed the crime.

Steve Mulroy is the newly elected district attorney for Memphis. This is an elected position. Until we, the people, and especially the pastors who supported him, speak out on this issue and encourage him to be tough on crime, we will all be subject to the mercy of criminals.

5. The Problem is Liberal, Progressive, Soft-on-Crime Policies. America is No Longer Safe.

After George Floyd died in 2020, all the riots happened in liberal-run cities across the country. These cities imploded because they were the ones who hollered, “DEFUND THE POLICE!” If soft-on-crime, liberal policies continue in our major urban cities, they will continue to collapse. As stated earlier, one major problem is liberal district attorneys who will not sentence criminals after they are arrested. Instead, they return offenders to the streets. This now encourages criminals because they know nothing will happen to them. They will not be punished.

Many of us African Americans have been erroneously taught that racism is the source of all our problems, including crime. However, research of major urban cities, all led by black or majority Democratic-elected officials, reveals a surprising trend. Black elected officials have led most urban cities for over 20-50 years. Why? As community demographics change and become predominantly African American, most black constituents, of course, only vote for Democrats.

Remember that the mayors of these cities are black or white liberals. The majority of city councils are black. The police chiefs are black. The district attorneys are black or white liberals. The state legislators, city attorneys, county commissioners, and school superintendents are black. So where is the racism? Racism cannot be the main issue when most elected officials in these cities are African American. This means they call the shots for their constituents. The problem is that the weak liberal policies they push do not effectively protect our communities.

A few years ago, I surveyed the racial makeup of high-level elected officials in urban cities that are all black or Democratic. The results below show the year when these cities last elected a white Republican mayor.

- Minneapolis, Minnesota – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1973.
- Chicago, Illinois – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1931.
- Portland, Oregon – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1979.
- Seattle, Washington – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1969.
- Washington, D.C. – No Republican has ever been elected mayor since the District of Columbia home rule began in 1975.
- Baltimore, Maryland – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1967.
- Atlanta, Georgia - Last Republican mayor was elected in 1879.
- Denver, Colorado – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1963.
- New York, New York – Last Republican mayor was elected in 2001.
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1952.
- Austin, Texas – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1991.
- Oakland, California – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1967.
- Los Angeles, California – Last Republican mayor was elected in 2001.
- Detroit, Michigan – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1987.
- Memphis, Tennessee – Last Republican mayor was elected in 1967.

Why have our cities become so bad without white Republican leadership over the last 20-50 years or more? Liberal policies have brought dilapidated houses, failing schools, high crime, dangerous city transit or transportation, homelessness, poverty, and loss of businesses and jobs. Why? As demographics have changed in these cities, and blacks have become the majority, of course, most of them vote Democratic. They vote for both black and white Democrats with their liberal policies. Yet, these policies are destroying our cities.

As African Americans, we tend to think with our emotions, fears, and anger over racism. We do not think about what the real issues are, who we are voting for, and what they stand for. Even before the 2020 George Floyd riots started, most cities were already collapsing because of corruption, fiscal mismanagement, bankruptcy, high crime rates, blighted buildings, and high taxation. For example, when we increase taxes on businesses, factories, and manufacturing plants, they cannot thrive, so they often leave these cities for pro-business areas. When that happens, jobs leave, poverty increases, and buildings are left empty.

I have discovered that these issues do not occur in cities run by conservative policies. Research reveals that these cities are safer and more prosperous than cities run by liberal policies. The facts and numbers don't lie. We cannot say that there is systematic racism in urban cities when the majority of the leaders in these cities are black and liberal/Democratic. This is not to say that there is no racism. Sure, there are some who are racist. However, we cannot blame racism for the crime and poor conditions we see in our urban cities. This is not about race, but about policies.

We must demand that our elected officials become tough on crime. If not, they must go! We must challenge our elected officials to change policies that will protect the public. If not, we must search for political candidates who will run on a platform that will be tough on crime.

6. Criminals Face No Consequences

Those who commit the crime must do the time. Scripture even states in Romans 13:1-6 that those who commit crimes are to be punished. Of course, we all want justice to be fair and law enforcement tactics to be respectable and honorable to all criminals. However, if there are no consequences, things will only escalate. Some criminals will require hard, aggressive tactics to control them.

If we do not do something soon, we will lose the freedom to enjoy life and go where we want. D.A. Mulroy needs to hear from the community to urge him to protect the people of our community, which is the job of the DA. ***(Please see Point 3: District Attorneys Around the Nation Who Are Soft on Crime)***

Many DAs Only Focus on Violent Crimes

You will see where some DAs are only focused on violent crimes and not all crimes, such as shoplifting, trespassing, breaking, entering, damaging property, resisting arrest, drug possession, and other lesser offenses. In essence, criminals can commit these crimes now without consequences. Google or click this story for more details: [**DA Drops 16 of 21 Theft Cases Against Alleged Serial Shoplifter \(WREG News Channel 3\)**](#)

7. Police Have Lost Motivation to Arrest Criminals

Police officers have stated that they arrest the criminals, but they are immediately released back into the streets. One officer said on the news one night that he and his team had arrested some of the same guys at least ten times. The criminals boldly boasted and told him they would "return to the streets that evening or the next day." This is a problem, not just in Memphis but in most of our large, urban cities. Once again, it stems from local district attorneys (DAs) or attorney generals who will not prosecute these young criminals. This socialistic, so-called progressive criminal justice reform ideology is destroying our cities and our nation as a whole.

8. Not Enough Police Officers Are on the Street

Since the death of George Floyd in May 2020 and since the subsequent persecution of police officers across America, many good, quality officers have left the police force to pursue other careers. Many officers fear media scrutiny, possible lawsuits, and potential accusations of racism and policies that will not allow them to do their jobs.

Tyre Nichols' beating and death here in Memphis have also been detrimental to the police force in our city, as many officers have resigned. One police officer I know personally told me that they, at one time, had only seven (7) officers that covered all of Hickory Hill, Cordova, and Oakhaven. Seven! Then, those seven are pulled from these areas to cover Beale Street on the weekends, leaving our communities unprotected. Police Chief C.J. Davis recently mentioned that police cannot protect citizens if they are not allowed to do their jobs. The City Council is legislating policies that make it difficult for police to arrest criminals. As a result, many officers have left the force, and lower-quality officers are now being hired. The community must also approach the City Council to force them to protect us.

9. Emboldened Criminals

Today's criminals are emboldened. They know the law and the police's limitations. They know the police will not touch them. If arrested, they will only be released on the streets the same day or the next day. This opens the door for repeat crimes from the same individuals. An environment of lawlessness now permeates our communities. Criminals now do not expect consequences. In many places around the nation, young criminals are entering businesses and taking whatever they want in the presence of employees in broad daylight. They expect no consequences. This will not bode well for us as citizens because the next step will be criminals boldly entering our homes without fear. Criminals must feel the consequences of law enforcement.

10. Prisons Are Overcrowded

Several county jail officials say there is no more room in the prisons for criminals unless they release some offenders back into the streets. I do not know how to handle this issue effectively. I do not know whether building new prison facilities is the answer. This overcrowding issue has led to officers only arresting violent criminals and ignoring other crimes such as trespassing, breaking, shoplifting, and driving with a suspended license.

11. Our Criminal Court System is Not Trying Enough Cases

Although the DA bears significant responsibility for the increase in crime, other factors contribute to its rise. Criminal court judges are not doing their jobs. They are not conducting enough trials. The criminal court hallways are empty now during the midday when they were once usually packed. Fewer than 40 trials were held this last year, with ten judges. Historically, the average has been about 200 jury trials a year, especially before COVID. One state senator said that the judges are no longer trying to work. There are over 300 pending murder cases. Yet, people need their day in court. Families of murder victims want closure.

12. The DA and Public Defenders

Another reason fewer trials are being held is that the DAs and public defenders' offices are striking more plea deals than ever. It is said that these deals usually carry much lighter sentences than they did in past years. As a result, the defendant usually feels no need to go to trial. This is less work for public defenders who still get paid. There is also a shortage of public defenders, increasing the trial backlog. Defendants are getting out of jail without paying any bail. They then return to the streets and commit more crimes.

13. The Judicial Commissioners

Finally, the judicial commissioners are the ones who set bail. Low or no bond is often given by these commissioners who are not accountable to us because they are not elected officials. It means the criminal justice system is either corrupt or ineffective in doing their jobs.

As former criminal court judge Bobby Carter stated, ***“At the end of the day, a knowledgeable and vocal public is the most effective mechanism for ensuring that the judges and district attorney effectively protect the community and guarantee their rights as well as those of the accused.”*** Google or click this story for more details: [Report: Shelby County Criminal Court Tried Fewer Cases, Takes Too Long to Reach Trial](#)

14. Our Elected Officials Must Protect Us

I recently saw an article featuring Mayor Jim Strickland (see herein) where he talked about how the crime problem largely stems from the Shelby County District Attorney Steve Mulroy’s office not prosecuting these crimes. I don’t know whether our DA is soft on crime because he agrees with the critical race theory ideology or because he fears news media scrutiny. I cannot tell you what is in his heart. I want to believe he wants to do a good job. Whichever it is, if the DA does not protect the citizens of our city, then we will all suffer the continued devastation and consequences of rising crime and violence. I believe he should prosecute any legitimate crimes. We must pressure his office to prosecute these criminals to save our city.

We must also force our elected officials at every level, city council, county commissioners, state representatives, etc., to get involved in protecting our communities. They are elected to represent us. We must force them to put pressure on the DA’s office.

They need to investigate matters for us and urge those involved with criminal justice to do their job. They need to report their findings to us. If not, then it is time for us to elect representatives who genuinely care for our communities.

Many of our elected officials (not all of them) seek office to benefit themselves and not represent the interests of their constituents.

Memphis City Council

African American Memphis City Council members have passed ordinances that could hurt public safety. In the wake of Tyre Nichols’ death, black city council members made a reactionary ordinance that could cause crime to increase. They are under pressure from the communities they represent to do something to prevent another Tyre incident hopefully. As an African American, I understand that.

However, when criminals know this, they begin to commit more crimes. Criminals will not stop breaking the law just because of a new ordinance. Forbidding police to pull people over for traffic violations will not keep the public safe. The interstates now feel like Indy 500 drag racing strips. They have gone insane since the Memphis Police Department stopped enforcing traffic laws like they once did. We must force our City Council to strike a balance so our communities and streets remain safe. Less enforcement makes our city less safe.

The job of elected officials is to protect the public. However, we are now in a time when elected officials respect criminals' rights more than the rights of law-abiding citizens. We must challenge our city council to protect us.

For Memphis, TN, to be referred to as the most dangerous city in the nation, something is wrong with our criminal justice policies.

It is also concerning that the City Council passed the ordinance without the mayor signing it into law, which was required. The City Council should have known that the ordinance had not been signed. The police began enforcing the ordinance without the mayor’s signature. Something is wrong with our city government protocol.

My Experience Before City-Elected Officials

About two years ago, I attended a local elected official's board meeting about an issue that was dear to me. The Chamber was packed as people shared their concerns. An elected official said, *"I don't know why you all are here to speak. We have already decided on how we gon' vote."*

That one statement indicated that the citizens' voices and concerns did not matter. Many politicians are all about what benefits them politically. This is called socialism, a system of government that benefits the government over the people.

Community leaders must get their elected officials to go to work for them. We must pressure DA Steve Mulroy to prosecute legitimate crimes and use his office to speak to judges and judicial commissioners to do their job. If they won't, they must report to community leaders, showing those who will not respond. Remember, DAs and criminal court judges are all elected officials who need your votes.

15. The Need for Better Family Structures and Parenting

The real problem in our communities is the degeneration of the family unit. Many fathers are not involved in their children's lives. Many young mothers cannot control their teenage sons. What programs can we initiate to help young parents develop parenting skills? How can we work with our city judiciary to force parents whose children are engaged in crime to get involved in training and disciplining their kids? Judge Tarik Sugarmon and Tennessee Senator Brent Taylor recently proposed a policy to hold parents accountable or penalize them for their children's crimes. Google or click the following story for more details: [**Holding Parents Accountable': Juvenile Court Judge Pushing for Tougher Penalties for Adults Involved in Juvenile Criminal Activity \(Action News 5\).**](#) Also, Google or click this story: [**Lawmakers Looking to Hold Parents Accountable for Their Children's Crimes**](#)

16. Getting Guns Off the Streets

We must discuss ways to get guns off the streets. How do we get guns out of the hands of young criminals yet not infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens? If stricter gun laws are the only answer, they do not work.

Chicago has some of the strictest gun laws on the books, yet it still has the worst crime problem in the nation. Criminals do not care about gun laws. Gun laws are on the books in most cities. The problem is that those in authority do not execute those laws.

Registering guns, stopping gun stores from selling guns, mandating background checks, and other actions like these do not work either. Why? Most criminals get their firearms underground in the black market. Most are not walking into stores with enough money to buy AR-15s and other automatic firearms. Someone ships those guns quietly into our communities. In the end, law-abiding citizens will turn in their guns. But how will we protect ourselves when we no longer have weapons while criminals still have theirs? We must find solutions to the gun problem.

17. Neighborhood Community Street Watch Connection

The community must unite and come together to fight crime. Similar to a neighborhood watch, consider a street-by-street watch, where neighbors on each street connect and chat online or in person regarding criminal activity. Each street should have a leader who connects with the neighbors on the street. NOTE: Review the entire vision with all procedures, rules, descriptions, policies, and benefits at [**www.hickoryhillcommunitystreetwatch.com.**](http://www.hickoryhillcommunitystreetwatch.com)

18. Better News Media Reporting

The news media must also bear some responsibility for the increase in crime. What the media reports or avoids can impact the crime we experience. Sometimes, news reports are one-sided, twisted, and not always truthful. The media can make the news or ignore news that should be reported. The media must keep people watching to increase ratings to sell advertisements. It is about the dollar bill. It is not always about reporting the truth. Both fear and controversy keep people watching.

Suppose the police have to use aggression against a crime suspect. In that case, the media will usually only show the police officers being aggressive but will leave out why the officers had to use aggression. These reports then stir anger and emotions in our community and turn our people against law enforcement. Now, officers are hesitant to do their jobs. Without law enforcement, we have no protection.

As we saw with George Floyd and Tyre Nichols, some officers have abused their power. How can we strike a balance? Even if we defund the police or push for tactics that refrain from touching criminals, crime will persist. Sometimes, officers must use force to prevent criminals from committing more crimes. Therefore, the media should be held accountable to give our communities truth and balance. If not, we must find a media source willing to do so.

Community leaders need to initiate conversations with news station general managers on how they report the news and request more truthful and balanced reporting. We should shift our support to whatever local news media outlet is willing to do that. We need to encourage our people to support news outlets that tell the truth and reveal the source of the problem instead of reporting only what tantalizes and causes controversy. If media sources lose viewers, then their solicitation of advertisers will suffer. Again, it is all about the money. Inform media general managers that community neighbors will call their advertisers to support media sources that offer balanced reporting.

19. What Can Community Leaders Do?

- A.** Educate your neighbors and encourage them to get more involved. There is strength in numbers, so inform and involve as many people as possible.
- B.** Involve your local elected officials in your meetings. Please encourage them to find solutions to the crime problem and hold them accountable to you.
- C.** Encourage churches and pastors in your community to educate their members. Again, there is strength in numbers. When elected officials see numbers, they see votes.
- D.** Pastors should consider having their members bombard the DA's office with calls or emails encouraging them to prosecute legitimate crimes.
- E.** At some point, community groups may need to appeal to their criminal court judges and Shelby County judicial commissioners. Judicial commissioners are not elected, yet they are responsible for setting bail. In many cases, they set low or 0-dollar bail amounts.

20. Socialism is the Problem Influencing Our Criminal Justice Reform

As stated earlier, at the core of the problem is Socialism. The powers working behind the scenes desire to remove our way of life. Socialism is an enemy of freedom, capitalism, and business. The increase in crime is being used to ruin our American capitalist society. They want the government to control all the resources. Allowing young black men to run free and commit these crimes helps destroy businesses. It is all about overturning our American Judeo-Christian society and converting it to a socialist society where the government controls every area of our lives. Our young black men are being used.

Conclusion: The Black Community Will Suffer the Most

In conclusion, soon, our people may feel unsafe in their homes, jobs, or churches. We must stand to save our people, churches, property, and businesses. Many of our businesses will be forced to close if they keep experiencing break-ins and losing inventory. This will cause a domino negative effect in our communities. Walmart stores and other grocery stores that help serve the black community have shut their doors in places like Chicago, Oakland, and Washington, D.C. This only hurts law-abiding black citizens who need these stores to be near them.

We must do something to turn the tide of this onslaught of crime. I realize that some people in our community do not want to see any of our young black boys arrested and prosecuted for any crimes they commit. I am sure none of us want to see that. This may also explain why DAs do not prosecute these crimes. However, our lives, families, cars, homes, businesses, church properties, and cities are all at stake. Our safety is being threatened every day. Just watching the news each night is heart-wrenching.

Our black communities and neighborhoods will suffer the most because most crimes in our city are being committed by black boys as young as 12 years old. It will only worsen in black neighborhoods if they feel no repercussions or consequences. Any one of us could very well be the next victim.