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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**CRIME COMMISSION OPPOSES HANDGUN
CARRY PROPOSAL, SUPPORTS TOUGHER SENTENCES**

In a unanimous vote of 39 out of 49 members participating, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission board of directors has voted to (1) oppose legislation that would allow the carrying of a handgun – openly or concealed – without a handgun permit and (2) support proposed enhanced sentences for theft of guns and for convicted felons in possession of guns.

Accompanying this media release is the full statement adopted by the board of directors, which includes a more detailed explanation of its position.

The Crime Commission board is composed of 49 members representing a diverse group of leaders from the community, including both private and public sectors. A list of members is available on the Crime Commission website at www.memphiscrime.org. The Crime Commission spearheaded development of the local Safe Community Plan to prevent and reduce crime and is actively pushing for implementation. A key objective of the plan is a reduction in gun violence.

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About the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission (www.memphiscrime.org): Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that “quarterbacks” the work of the Safe Community Plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, chairman emeritus of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chair of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

About the Safe Community Plan (www.memphiscrime.org): Launched in 2007, the Safe Community Plan, an action plan spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative. Implementation of the Safe Community Plan is chaired by Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich.