



# METRO JUSTICE FORUM



LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

## Welcome to the First Metro Justice Forum

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Metro Justice Forum. Since its inception in December 1967, the Louisville Metro Criminal Justice Commission (formerly the Crime Commission) has been in continuous operation, making it one of the oldest criminal justice planning agencies in the country. As a joint city/county agency prior to merger, the Commission is in a unique position to facilitate planning, research, and system-wide coordination efforts. With merger the Commission's charge was expanded to include public safety and homeland security. Throughout the years, we have been fortunate to have been a part of many of the community's most significant and successful criminal justice and public safety initiatives. Over the past ten years, the Commission has assisted in the writing, submission, and receipt of more than \$66 million in federal and state criminal justice and public safety grants. Nearly \$46 million was fiscally and programmatically managed by Commission staff. This funding has been used to develop and implement projects and programs such as the Domestic Violence Intake Center, Metro Search and Rescue Team, Electronic Citation Project, Justice Reinvestment, and Project Backfire (enhanced gun crime prosecution), which benefit citizens community wide.



The central components of our operation are the positive and productive working relationships we share with those agencies and organizations within local, state and federal criminal justice and public safety. This asset has allowed us to build consensus, guide best practices and promote innovative projects - while tackling some of the most critical systemic public safety challenges to our community. One of the long standing goals of the Commission has always been to raise practitioner and citizen awareness regarding contemporary criminal justice and public safety issues. By serving as an impartial forum, the Commission promotes and facilitates discussions that help community policy-makers make data-driven and informed decisions. The objective of the new Metro Justice Forum is to provide readers with topical articles and information to promote dialogue and critical thinking about significant community public safety issues. We want this newsletter to be a useful and valuable tool for criminal justice and public safety agencies. We encourage individuals to email us with ideas, suggestions, and topics for future newsletters. Our email address is: [metro.crime@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:metro.crime@louisvilleky.gov). We look forward to your participation and your feedback.

### ISSUE 1

### Domestic Violence - Every day in Louisville there are:

FALL 2009

- 84 calls for service to LMPD and 13 crisis calls to the Center for Women & Families (CWF)
- 10 offense reports taken by LMPD
- 5 perpetrators arrested
- 11 cases prosecuted in Jefferson District Court and 1 case prosecuted Jefferson Circuit Court
- 5 offenders referred to domestic violence treatment
- 14 Emergency Protective Orders (EPO) issued and 15 EPOs served
- 12 victims assisted by Adult & Child Protective Services
- 31 victims receiving legal advocacy by the CWF; and
- 56 victims residing at the CWF shelter

### Welcome Dr. Keeling

The Metro Criminal Justice Commission welcomes Dr. Deborah G. Keeling as the new Executive Director! Dr. Keeling joined the Commission on September 1, 2009. Her appointment is part of a long term partnership between the Department of Justice Administration at the University of Louisville and the Criminal Justice Commission. She is working with the Commission on a part-time basis and is contributing her time as part of her community service responsibilities as a faculty member at the university. Dr. Keeling is honored by this appointment and excited by the prospects it presents for expanding the ongoing partnerships between the Department of Justice Administration, the University of Louisville, the Commission and other public safety agencies within Metro Government.



### 2010 Legislative Session

The 2010 Kentucky Legislative session will commence on January 5<sup>th</sup> and conclude on April 13<sup>th</sup>. As in previous years, the Criminal Justice Commission will track criminal justice and public safety-related bills. Issues expected to be of interest to the legislature will be changes in the penal code and domestic violence.

Bills of particular importance to those within the domestic violence community include Bill Request (BR)145, prefiled by Representative Joni Jenkins, which would allow individuals within a dating relationship to obtain domestic violence protective orders; and BR251, prefiled by Representative Greg Stumbo that would allow judges to order some domestic violence offenders to wear electronic monitors with GPS capabilities. (LRC home page: [www.lrc.state.ky.us/legislation.htm](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/legislation.htm))



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### Board Meeting Schedule

#### 2009

December 10<sup>th</sup>

#### 2010

February 18<sup>th</sup>

April 15<sup>th</sup>

June 17<sup>th</sup>

August 19<sup>th</sup>

October 21<sup>st</sup>

December 16<sup>th</sup>

All meetings are 2:00 p.m.

David L. Armstrong

Crown Room

Judicial Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

700 W. Jefferson Street

### Grant Award!

Congratulations to the Louisville Fire Department for receiving one of the largest ARRA Fire Construction Grants in the Country. The **\$3.3 million dollar** grant was one of only two awarded in Kentucky. This is the second award through the Assistance to Firefighters Act in 2009. A **\$1.7 million** dollar regional fire grant was received by the department earlier this year. The Criminal Justice Commission has assisted LFD in writing more than 20 grant applications over the past six years. Funding from these grants has allowed LFD to better protect its firefighters, to develop new response capabilities, and to enhance services provided to the community.

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

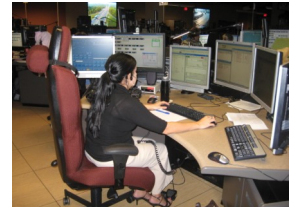
Intimate partner violence is a pervasive problem impacting communities across the United States. According to national studies, in over 90% of domestic violence incidents, crimes are committed by men against women. Nearly one in four American women have experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives. A study by the Surgeon General's Office revealed that domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 and approximately 30% of all female murder victims are slain by their husbands or boyfriends. Some of the warning signs of a domestic violence relationship can be: controlling behavior, isolation from family or friends, destruction of property, intimation, physical assaults, and threats to kill.

To help create awareness and promote prevention, a national campaign has designated October "Domestic Violence Awareness Month". Communities across the country are encouraged to mark the month with educational events. Coordinated efforts which hold perpetrators accountable and provide assistance to victims are making a difference across the country and Louisville is no exception. The newly expanded multi-agency Domestic Violence Intake Center within the Hall of Justice is but one example of the commitment this community and its criminal justice system places on combating domestic violence. During October, attend an event, share information and do your part in raising awareness of this serious crime. Provide a voice for those being victimized by domestic violence.

To report suspected domestic violence, call the Kentucky Adult & Child Abuse Hotline **1-800-752-6200** or the LMPD Tip Line **574-5673**. Your call can be anonymous. If you are a victim in need of crisis counseling or advocacy assistance, please call the Center for Women & Families 24-hour Crisis Line **1-877- 803-7577**.

## Congrats to MetroSafe!

Prior to merger, as a joint city/county agency, the Criminal Justice Commission (Crime Commission) was in a unique position to assist local government in developing a plan to merge public safety. The most pressing issue soon became apparent – the two largest police departments in the state (Louisville Division of Police and the Jefferson County Police Department) were scheduled to merge but unable to communicate directly with one another. In 2003, Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson pledged his commitment to address and solve this public safety communications challenge. The Mayor tasked the Criminal Justice Commission to bring relevant agencies together and find short and long term solutions to this problem, including mechanisms for funding the project. While transitional technology was employed to assist with the immediate communications problems, a long term solution, now known as MetroSafe, was developed to provide first responders and the citizens of Louisville Metro with a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency state-of-the-art, interoperable public safety communications system.



As a first step, the Commission sought and obtained a 2003 COPS Interoperability grant that provided \$6 million in funding to consolidate the former city and county 911 Call Taking & Dispatch Centers into a single center at Barret Avenue. Over the next six years, the continued commitment of Mayor Abramson and the public safety partners, allowed the Commission to work in partnership with MetroSafe personnel to obtain over \$34 million in federal grant funding for a new Computer Aided Dispatch, Information Technology upgrades, new equipment for the Emergency Operations Center and a soon to be unveiled 800 MHz radio system for the region. To those who have provided the vision, dedication and hard work throughout the years, we congratulate you for a job well done. The Commission is grateful for the opportunity to have been part of an initiative of such significance to both local public safety and the community. We congratulate MetroSafe on the opening of its new Center on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and we look forward to working on new partnerships in the future.