



A PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Building a Better Shelby County Jail

Safe Deputies. Safe Facilities. Safer Communities.

Shelby County Deputy Sheriffs' Association x Union Strong Labor Education

335

corrections deputy
positions to fill

13

deaths in custody
in 2025 alone

2,540

people housed
at 201 Poplar

\$48K

starting pay for this
demanding job

Why It Matters to Every Taxpayer

- > The U.S. Department of Justice found chronic understaffing and turnover contributed to violence and unconstitutional conditions at the jail - leading to a federal settlement agreement.
- > Vacant posts force mandatory overtime at time-and-a-half. Exhausted deputies get hurt, burn out, and resign - deepening the shortage and raising costs for everyone.
- > Most people at 201 Poplar are pre-trial - legally innocent - and nearly all return to our neighborhoods. Unsafe conditions inside follow people back into the community.
- > Understaffed jails cancel education and rehabilitation programs first. Less programming inside means more crime outside - and higher costs later.

What We're Asking For - Practical Solutions, Not Blame

- Competitive wages to recruit and retain deputies
- Better medical resources and staffing
- Modern training: de-escalation and crisis intervention
- Wellness resources for the employees doing the job
- More mental health professionals inside the jail
- Facility improvements - safe, modern infrastructure
- Education and rehabilitation programs that cut recidivism

TAKE ACTION - SCAN THE CODE

- Learn the facts and take the free community course (earn a certificate)
- Find your County Commissioner and submit a respectful comment
- Attend a Commission meeting - Mondays 3 PM, 160 N. Main St., Memphis
- Share your story: deputies, retirees, medical staff, chaplains & families

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