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## News Release

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### **Uptown's *Zero in the Zone* Safety and Beautification Effort Begins This Week**

A plan to reduce crime and beautify the Uptown neighborhood kicks off this weekend. This Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, residents will join with representatives of area businesses and community agencies for a cookout and cleanup of the neighborhood just north of downtown Memphis. The event starts at noon at Humes Preparatory School, 659 Manassas.

**“Simply put, *Zero in the Zone* means we want zero crime and zero blight in our community. We have lots of children who walk to school, attend Neighborhood Christian Center and Porter Leath – they don’t need to see crime and blight”** said Tanja Mitchell, Coordinator of the Uptown Neighborhood.

The Uptown Neighborhood formed the Uptown Joint Agency Partnership several months ago. Members meet monthly to target health, zoning and crime issues in the area. The *Zero in the Zone* initiative came through discussions with the Memphis Police officers and housing, building and health code inspectors with Memphis and Shelby County Governments.

**“*Zero in the Zone* will be vital to the Uptown area residents and business owners. Our aggressive effort to control crime and ensure code enforcement compliance will make a difference in the neighborhood,”** said Colonel Ralph Gary of the Memphis Police South Main Station.

The Uptown Revitalization Project started in 2003 as a unique mix of single family homes and multi-family units after Hurt Village Public Housing Community was closed. Besides Humes Preparatory School, Neighborhood Christian Center, Porter Leath Children’s Services and Salvation Army Women’s Center are located in the neighborhood.

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