



MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE OF REENTRY

1362 Mississippi Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38106



Commissioner
Derrick D. Schofield



Mayor
Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.



Mayor
A C Wharton, Jr.

News Release

August 7, 2015

Ribbon Cutting Next Week for the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Re-entry New Location in South Memphis

Tennessee's only joint-agency office to assist formerly incarcerated people find work and other resources will officially open next week at its permanent location in south Memphis. A news conference will be held on Tuesday, August 11th, 11:00 a.m., at 1362 Mississippi Boulevard. The center previously operated in temporary sites at 600 Adams Avenue and 1060 Madison Avenue.

Tennessee Department of Corrections Commissioner Derrick Schofield, Tennessee Department of Homeland Security Commissioner Bill Gibbons and other elected officials will join Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. and City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr., as they cut the ribbon for the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Re-entry (MSCOR).

The re-entry center is a one-stop facility comprised of staff from the Shelby County Division of Corrections, Tennessee Department of Corrections and the former *Second Chance* program operated by the City of Memphis.

The concept for a joint-agency re-entry center began in 2011 through *Operation Safe Community*, a monthly gathering of law enforcement and community agencies that monitor crime rates and collectively seek solutions to reduce crime throughout Shelby County.

Counselors and parole officers at the re-entry office assist formerly incarcerated individuals with housing, transportation, education and training, employment, mental and medical health, identification replacement, benefits reconnection, family reunification and community engagement and physical wellness. MSCOR has partnered with many community agencies to streamline the delivery of services to returning citizens.

Since January of 2015, almost 700 citizens have utilized the re-entry center. Approximately 7,000 people are released from prison in Shelby County each year. Almost 10,000 are under probation and parole supervision. Counselors also work with the inmates many months before their release from prison to define their needs and connect them with resources.

State corrections officials have been impressed with the joint-agency facility and say it may be replicated in other Tennessee communities. For more information, contact Phyllis Fickling at (901) 222-4550.

(End of Release)