



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE IN DANGEROUS TIMES

Growing up in rural Tennessee, I have always felt safe and secure in Cumberland County. We never worried about violence and acts of aggression in our small town very much. In the last several years things have changed not only here but in our entire nation. We are now seeing things happen that we never thought we would see. I would have never believed that people would have entered schools and churches with the intent of killing and injuring children and worshipers. But we have seen several incidents where this is exactly what has happened. These incidents have happened in large areas as well as small towns.

Just think about the number of school shootings such as Columbine High School in Colorado where 12 teenage students and 1 teacher were killed with 21 injured by 2 gunmen. At the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Ct., 20 young children and 6 administrators were killed by a lone gunman. At Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg Va., 32 were killed and 23 injured by a lone gunman. Then there are the unthinkable church shootings. At first Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs TX., 26 were killed and 22 injured by a lone gunman before he was stopped by an armed parishioner. Then close to home in Knoxville TN. At the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2 were killed and 7 injured by a man with a gun hidden in a guitar case. These acts are getting more frequent and closer to home. Violent crime has even hit the peaceful village of Lake Tansi. During my time working for this department, there have been several violent aggravated assaults with weapons and even murders. In recent years, there have been 2 murders with firearms right here in Lake Tansi. There was an incident where a schoolteacher killed her boyfriend as he slept and most recently, 2 people went into a home on Cherokee Trail and shot and killed a lady in her own home. Just a few weeks ago there was an incident in Fairfield Glade of a triple shooting where 1 was killed and 2 were injured by gun violence.

You can see by all this that our community is not immune to violence. We here at the Lake Tansi Police Department are first responders for 2 schools, Brown Elementary and South Cumberland Elementary. We also have the Tansi Community Church as well as several public gathering places like the Thunderbird Recreation Center and the Hiawatha Community center. We have several businesses and the One Bank on Dunbar Road. All these places are vulnerable to violent attack, and it is my responsibility as the Chief of Police to make sure that the Lake Tansi Police Department's officers have the necessary equipment and training to immediately deal with any threat that arises.

In response to the ever changing and increasingly violent nature of the times in which we are living, I want to assure you that we here at the Lake Tansi Police Department are doing everything in our power to be prepared to meet any attempt to do harm to anyone in our community swiftly, firmly, and aggressively. To that end, we have acquired patrol rifles for each of our patrol vehicles and arrangements have been made for each officer to attend a patrol rifle school to be thoroughly trained in the use of these weapons. The patrol rifle is indispensable for use in situations where an officer may need to place accurate shots over distance in a crowded environment. We have also acquired new shotguns to replace the aging units that we have in the patrol vehicles. Each officer is also trained in the use of his sidearm annually. Our officers also have chemical spray and tasers for situations where less than lethal force is needed. In addition to the new equipment and training, all officers have been through active shooter training, and we will continue to seek any additional training that will better enable us to keep you and your families safe.

Anthony Brown, Chief of Police