The Justice & Safety Alliance (JSA) firmly opposes the Juvenile Crime Abatement Team, which was proposed by the Memphis Police Department and is now "on pause" after articles about the team's existence were published.

Created by MPD leadership, this "Juvenile Abatement Task Force" will end up racially profiling, surveilling, and criminalizing young people based on racist generalizations and failed stop-and-frisk policies.

Learn more from MPD's own powerpoint.
POLICY PRESENTATION

Juvenile Crime Abatement Program

NORTH MAIN STATION

AUTHOR: MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
To combat this problem, N. Main Station has created a Juvenile Abatement Team to address juvenile truancy, curfew violations, and other criminal activities committed in the Downtown area. A plain clothes Officer will utilize the roof top of Auto Zone building to identify criminal behavior.

A plain clothes officer will be stationed on the rooftop of AutoZone's headquarters to identify [your child's] "criminal" behavior.

This plan contains exactly what the community has been opposing for months:

• Plain clothes officers,
• Pretextual [pedestrian] stops, and
• A specialized unit that targets children.
This team will monitor juveniles and young adult pedestrians for illegal activities, to include but not limited to, solicitation of candy or food, handing out flyers for donations, playing loud music, inappropriately dressed, dancing in the street, and any other activity deemed inappropriate or actions that disrupts the harmony of the Downtown community.
Once an illegal act is witnessed, Officers will professionally encounter the juvenile or young adult for detention and if necessary transport to Juvenile Court for further investigation or summons.
If Juvenile Court refuses to accept the juvenile, the juvenile offender will be transported to the N. Main Station located at 444 N. Main, until the juvenile offenders’ parents/legal guardian or DCS arrives to take custody. Officers will maintain a Juvenile Detention Log.

**The Crime:** Being young and, most likely, Black.

**The Punishment:** DETENTION
Officers will then notify the juvenile offender’s parents or legal guardian to arrive at N. Main Station to pick up their child. Once the parents/legal guardian arrives, a juvenile summons will be issued to the parent.


Officers will then contact DCS to take custody of the juvenile offender and will pursue charging the parents for:

"CHILD ABANDONMENT"

If the juvenile offender parents/legal guardian refuses to arrive at N. Main Station to pick up their child.

**Officers will not transport juvenile offenders to a residence.**

Officers will then contact the Department of Children Services (DCS) to take custody of the juvenile offender.

If DCS refuses to take custody of the juvenile from N. Main Station, Supervisors will then petition the court to bound the juvenile over to the State of Tennessee and pursue charging the parents for Child Abandonment.
This is an intentional policing policy change focused on Downtown Memphis and represents an egregious, racist misconception of public safety that will violate the civil rights of young people and further undermine trust between the community and law enforcement.

The timing of this announcement is alarming:

- Just months after the SCORPION task force was "disbanded" after killing Tyre Nichols
- Just days after City Council finished passing police reforms, including ending certain pretextual traffic stops.

This new plan undermines these community-supported police reforms and will further erode trust between law enforcement and the people they are supposed to protect and serve.
This team's true impact will be to racially profile, surveil, and criminalize our children, not improve public safety. We cannot allow policies and practices like these to persist in our city!

Young people in Memphis deserve a city that invests in their education and safety, not one that puts them on a path to prison and family separation.

We remain committed to working towards justice and safety for all in Memphis!