

Letter to the community from
Incoming Chief of Police, Joseph D. Bishop



Dear Citizens of Columbia,

On November 3, 2008, I will take the helm as Chief of Police. I am honored by the opportunity to serve the residents of this city. I must say that I am looking forward to building partnerships within the department and throughout the city. As the fifth member of 12 siblings, I learned early in life the value of teamwork and accountability.

In order to prevent and reduce crime in today's society, a multi-faceted approach is mandatory. However, no approach can be successful without teamwork. And, the best teamwork is rendered useless without accountability. Crime affects all of us whether we have been victimized or not. Your police department will work tirelessly to address the crime issues that adversely affect our community.

Further, we will address specific quality of life issues through partnerships with stakeholders and by taking an innovative approach to finding solutions that work. Every resident of Columbia deserves the very best quality of life and a safe environment. On that note, please know that there will be opportunities to hear the concerns from every community about crime in Columbia.

Over the coming weeks, you will be hearing about "S.A.F.E.," a set of key objectives that will establish the foundation of teamwork and accountability. This approach will allow us to build on positive relationships formed by the officers and encourage partnerships with the schools, churches, businesses and neighborhoods.

Finally, I accepted this position because I know that together, we can make a difference. I invite you to join us in a spirit of active collaboration to help make this city, "S.A.F.E."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph D. Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph D. Bishop