

# **Murfreesboro Police Department**

## **Media Release**

April 19, 2016



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On Sunday April 17, Murfreesboro Police and city officials met with residents at First Baptist Church on E. Castle Street to listen to their concerns about the April 15 arrests. “Sunday was an opportunity to listen and we are committed to reviewing those concerns in a thorough and complete manner,” said Chief of Police Karl Durr.

While residents questioned the arrests of the students, Tennessee law prohibits the Murfreesboro Police Department (MPD) from addressing the specifics of the juvenile arrests. The law is designed to protect juveniles and any information regarding incidents juveniles are involved in as it pertains to law enforcement records. MPD will not have further comment on these specific arrests because it is a matter before the Juvenile Court.

MPD will, however, conduct an internal After-Action Review. “The Department is committed to assuring that its officers consistently use good judgement and act in accordance with policy. If we need to make changes or address issues internally we will identify any issue and act accordingly,” Chief Karl Durr stated. This review will assure the Department identifies law enforcement best practices, assists with their implementation, and augments enhanced policies and training where necessary. A cross section of MPD personnel will be assigned to review these internal procedures and draft recommendations.

“It is important that the Department be transparent about the Police Department’s analysis of its policies and procedures by engaging and involving the community,” Chief Durr added. Therefore, the Chief will meet with a coalition of Murfreesboro pastors to review the draft After-Action Review recommendations to gain their input and advice. The forming of this pastoral coalition can also provide an opportunity for regular communication with the Police Department. The MPD will also continue to work with residents, community leaders, and the Rutherford County Juvenile Court to ensure the highest standard of law enforcement practices.

Chief Durr said, “Situations involving juvenile offenders and victims are some of the most difficult and sensitive situations that officers must handle. Our police officers are committed to serving the community, preventing crime, and helping the victims of crime. We will reinforce the practices that have worked well and correct any deficiencies or problems that become known.”

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