Disclaimer:  The author, Fergus Nolan, has appeared in three Authorizations of Agency.

The [Broken Windows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broken_windows_theory) theory of crime, first proposed in 1982, led to [zero tolerance](https://www.justicestrategies.org/Zero%20Tolerance) policies in police departments, and legislative strategies like [minimum sentencing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_sentencing) and [three strikes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three-strikes_law) at Federal and state levels.  These measures have had mixed success in crime reduction but a profound impact on [mass incarceration.](https://www.aclu.org/issues/smart-justice/mass-incarceration)



Against this background, faced with rising crime statistics, [Memphis Shelby Crime Commission](https://memphiscrime.org/) was founded in 1997 as an affiliate of Memphis Tomorrow.  In 2006,  Memphis Fast Forward collaborated with [Memphis Shelby Crime Commission](https://memphiscrime.org/) to publish Operation Safe Community 1 covering 2007 through 2011, and two subsequent updates, [OSC2 for 2012-2016](http://fnolan.com/AO3/osc_2012-2016_action_agenda_with_detailed_action_plans_final_102212.pdf) and the current version,  [Operation Safe Community 3.](https://memphiscrime.org/wp-content/uploads/AMENDED-July-2017-OSC-3-Complete-Plan-Booklet.pdf)

Memphis Fast Forward's website has been a [work in progress notice](http://www.memphisfastforward.com/) since at least 2016, but here is a [2015 version](http://memphisfastforward.com/steeringcommittee) of the site courtesy of [archive.org](https://web.archive.org).  The 2015 steering committee had Bill Gibbons, the County and City mayors and Memphis Tomorrow members including Pitt Hyde.   Operation Safe Community's website now redirects to the [Memphis Shelby Crime Commission](https://memphiscrime.org/crime-plan/).

The objective of OSC was "to create an ambitions plan to reduce both violent and property crime through its public safety arm, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission".

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**Crime and Apartment Complexes**

The current [Operation Safe Community 3](https://memphiscrime.org/wp-content/uploads/AMENDED-July-2017-OSC-3-Complete-Plan-Booklet.pdf), page 11, Objective C4, says that "reducing the number of crimes committed in apartment communities ... will improve the safety and quality of life for apartment residents..."

We have often written about Authorization of Agency [as enforced by MPD under its Uniform Patrol Station SOPs](http://memphistruth.org/2019/12/07/mpd-authorization-of-agency-regulations/).   We had also heard the term [Authorization of Agency](https://youtu.be/NovwADYylFA) used by prosecutors.   We have learned that the term means two distinct processes.

To the DA, Authorization of Agency is a process administered jointly by the DA's [anti-trespass program](https://www.scdag.com/preventingcrime/trespassing) and a non-profit corporation named Safeways, Inc.

Safeways was set up in 2013, has a bunch of executives in common with [MSCC](https://memphiscrime.org/board-of-directors/) and the [MGU](http://memphistruth.org/2019/11/14/multiagency-gang-unit-mgu/), and [receives $150K](http://fnolan.com/AO3/Safeways_990_2017.pdf) of its just over $250K budget directly from MPD.   It shares Suite 400 at 600 Jefferson with Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and MPD's Real Time Crime Center, part of the Special Operations command, responsible for a lot of MPD's questionable activities.  Safeways' role is to recruit apartment businesses as clients, package crime information brokered from MPD to its clients, and administer the DA's no-trespass program.

[caption id="attachment\_3025" align="alignleft" width="356"] Safeways anti-trespass notice.  Photo: scdag.org[/caption]

OSC3 requires "strict compliance with Shelby DA's [anti-trespass program](https://www.scdag.com/preventingcrime/trespassing) on [Safeways](http://safeways.org/)' client sites". The anti-trespass program page states "once the apartment complex management completes enrollment in the program, tenants are notified, signs are posted on the property and local law enforcement are provided **authorization of agency**."

This authorization of agency authorizes MPD, and soon SCSO, to make arrests of anyone unauthorized on a property.   It does not name names like the police version of AoA.

We include the [Multi-Agency Gang Unit](http://memphistruth.org/2019/11/14/multiagency-gang-unit-mgu/) in the interrelationship table below, because the MGU was chartered just a year before Safeways, Inc., because there are so many board members in common, and because the MGU's Gang Injunctions are similar to AoAs on steroids.  Prior to the establishment of MGU, MPD ran several operations which were geographical paramilitary sweeps.   See [3.pdf](http://fnolan.com/AO3/3.pdf), [10.pdf](http://fnolan.com/AO3/10.pdf) and [25.pdf](http://fnolan.com/AO3/25.pdf) for internal MPD emails about Operation Safeway sweeps.  MGU is an Amy Weirich innovation and appears to have sprung from the same source as Safeways, Inc and the MPD's AoA process.  The commonality of so many board members and executives, and the link to Memphis Tomorrow and MSCC strengthens this hypothesis.

**Interrelationships between Safeways, MSCC and MGU.**

[caption id="attachment\_3045" align="alignnone" width="709"] Figure 1: Interrelationships between Safeways, Inc, MSCC and MGU Board.[/caption]

**The DA's Authorization of Agency Process**

We'll refer to this version of Authorization as DA's AoAs, to distinguish them from the MPD's AoA version as regulated by the [UPSSOP](http://memphistruth.org/2019/12/07/mpd-authorization-of-agency-regulations/).  What happens is that the DA's office and Safeways obtains a notarized  Authorization of Agency document from Safeways' clients and presents it to MPD.  This document purports to authorize MPD officers to arrest individuals who are not tenants or guests on the posted premises for criminal trespass, without the notice to depart required by [TCA § 39-14-405](https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2014/title-39/chapter-14/part-4/section-39-14-405).

The AoA target then experiences a criminal justice process [similar to that outlined for the MPD AoA variant](http://memphistruth.org/2019/12/07/mpd-authorization-of-agency-regulations/).   We note that Safeways Inc receives the majority of its budget from MPD and is acting as an agent for MPD in an alliance with the DA's office, and one of its responsibilities is to market the DA's AoA process to apartment businesses.

We have been told, anecdotally, that a large number of trespass convictions result from this process and expect to follow up with additional information as it becomes available.

Appendix B of the UPSSOP is a list of 6 MPD AoA forms.  The first is form AA 0306, the standard AoA form.  The second through fifth appear to relate to the DA's AoA process.