



Sikeston Department of Public Safety partners with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to reduce gun violence.

Last week, a shooting occurred in Sikeston that left a 35 year old man paralyzed below the waist. Three subjects, armed with a pistol, kicked in the victim's back door in appeared to be an attempted robbery. A struggle erupted and the man was shot, which left him paralyzed. The three suspected men were arrested and charged late last week.

Since January 1, 2013, the city of Sikeston has received 47 calls of "shots fired". We have also had three incidents of Assault 1st or Assault 2nd that involved a subject being shot. This means that there has been a shooting, on average, about every three to four days. Historically, violence tends to increase during the summer months; meaning the rate of violence is expected to go up. These statistics do not include other serious assaults involving other deadly weapons.

To combat this, Sikeston DPS and ATF have been working cooperatively to reduce gun violence locally. For the past several months, an ATF Agent has been imbedded with the Sikeston DPS Power Squad. The agent is working with DPS at the street level to help combat violence like what occurred last week. This collaboration enhances our ability to make our community safer. Working as a team, we share intelligence and multiply resources. This partnership is targeting violent gun and drug crimes in our community.

Director of Public Safety Drew Juden said, "This is a serious conflict we are involved in; guns and drugs bring death and destruction. Neighborhoods can become war zones where drug trafficking is prevalent. Sikeston DPS has been extremely successful in reducing drug crimes over the last few years; however, this is an ongoing battle. That is why collaborating with agencies such as ATF is important. Our cooperation with federal agencies will help create a safer environment for our residents and we are all committed to that goal."

The partnership is also intended to send a message to those who make their living by drugs and violence. Generally speaking, the federal justice system has stricter guidelines and mandatory sentencing for gun and drug crimes. The integration of federal and local

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law enforcement ensures solid investigations, successful prosecutions and LONG STAYS in prisons for these offenders.

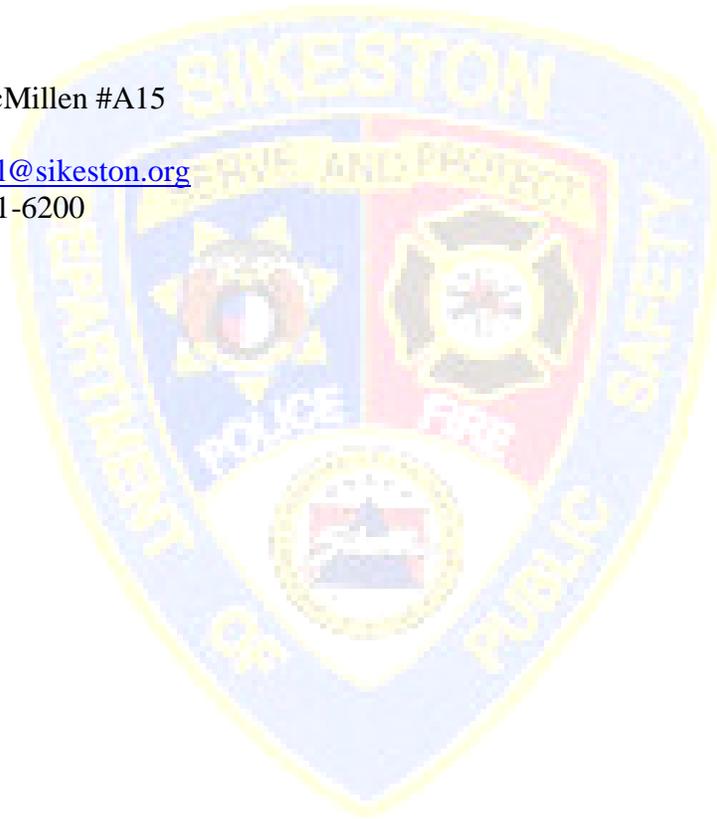
Sikeston DPS will use every resource available to swiftly deal with those use guns to inflict violence.

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