

Ronald Osborn's speech to the Board of Police Commissioners on May 30th, 2006.

Good morning. My name is Ronald Osborn. I am here with my brother Richard Osborn to present to you our "Safe Streets Safe City" initiative, and to comment on our findings. We appreciate having this opportunity to speak before you at this time. On November 20th of last year, my brother Robert Osborn was brutally gunned down while riding his bicycle home from work, the apparent result of a "thrill kill". We want to first extend our deepest gratitude to all of the Officers that helped in the apprehension of the two suspects connected with his murder. My brother's death prompted us to investigate why such a brutal killing for such a disturbing cause would happen so close to home. We were shocked to learn of Kansas City's extremely high crime rates. After six months of exhaustive research and countless interviews, the formation of a non-profit organization called "Safe Streets" was formed and our findings discovered several areas of concern that are disturbing as my brother will be pointing out.

Safe Street's mission is to save lives through crime reduction and promote greater security in public places. Moreover, a Zero Tolerance towards crime. The violent crime rate appears to be escalating and out of control, coupled with an indifference and complacency among some public officials is a formula for disaster. We hope that Safe Streets abolishes this type of attitude and decreases violent crime dramatically.

A phrase which you will here often, came about during one of our meetings when someone asked me, "What would you like to see happen", I replied by saying, "Zero homicides", I got a strange look and knew he had to be thinking, "That's impossible". I told him, "We might not get to Zero, but on the way maybe we could save a few lives". Thus the phrase "Take it to **Zero**" was born. "Take it to **Zero**" not only applies to homicides but should also be used on such things as violent crimes, city ordinances, code enforcement, neighborhood blight, outstanding warrants, and so on. A Zero Tolerance attitude must be adopted if we are to save our city from the criminals. We have met with government leaders such as city council person Becky Nace who supports our efforts in large crime reduction and promoting citizen involvement in supporting our police department, along with cooperation and support from city services. We have also met with District Attorney Mike Sanders who has shared with us some of his ideas on crime reduction which is consistent with some aspects of our Zero Tolerance agenda. We hope that all of you will join my family and me in our fight to "Take it to **Zero**"