

## Blue Impact policing strategy reduces crime in Jackson

**B**lue Impact, a community-policing strategy the Jackson Police Department put in place last summer, is reducing crime, Interim Chief Julian Wisner told the Chamber's Jackson Young Professionals recently.

Blue Impact is a department-wide policing philosophy that focuses on reducing crime and gang activity through community involvement. After implementing the strategy, crime in Jackson is down among gang-related metrics, he said.

For example, Jackson has seen a decrease in almost 50 percent in calls for service about gunshots from 2013 to 2014. During that same time period, assaults, drug violations, robberies and burglaries are also down by almost half.

Blue Impact recognizes that police can't arrest their way out of societal problems because there is not enough room in jails to hold repeat offenders. It also



recognizes that community support of police is critical to combating crime.

"In turn, the community must have our assistance," Wisner said. "Providing a safe community and society is a joint operation."

Police officers establish a presence in neighborhoods with gang activity to support law-abiding residents and provide a safe place for children to play. In the process, they work with neighborhoods to gather information

about troublemakers to keep them off the streets.

"Blue Impact combines the most productive methods of multiple types of historical policing techniques," Wisner said. "It's the best of both worlds from different policing philosophies

and combines the positive portions of them to be more productive, more effective and more efficient with our resources."

Blue Impact is a collaboration between the Jackson Police Department, Madison County Sheriff's Department, probation and parole officers, code enforcement officers, and state and federal agencies, and the Multi-Jurisdictional Violent Crime and Gang Task Force.



Interim Jackson Police Chief Julian Wisner, above, discusses the merits of Blue Impact during the Chamber's Jackson Young Professionals luncheon earlier this month. From left, Sara Wood, Freed-Hardeman University Graduate Studies; Andrew Long of BancorpSouth; and Austin Lewis, Freed-Hardeman University Graduate Studies, fill their plates, while April Elgin of King & King PLC and Tamara Stanfill of Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC take a moment to get their picture taken.



### Jackson Chamber Events

#### Business After Hours

**When:** 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 29  
**Where:** PreventaGenix, 162 Murray Guard Drive, Suite B  
**Event Details:** Network, exchange business cards and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. Business After Hours is a popular networking event each month.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** Not required  
**Sponsor:** PreventaGenix

#### Business @ 212

**When:** 7:45 – 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12  
**Where:** Jackson Chamber, 197 Auditorium St.  
**Event Details:** Network, enjoy breakfast and hear Lori Nunnery, Executive Director of the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, speak on "Tourism: What's in Your Wallet?"  
**Sponsors:** BancorpSouth and Baker's Rack

#### Women in Business

**When:** 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12  
**Where:** Jackson Country Club, 31 Jackson Country Club Drive  
**Cost:** \$25 for Jackson Chamber members; \$35 for non-chamber members  
**RSVP:** Seating is limited, reserve your spot by Feb. 5  
**Sponsors:** First South Bank, Robert's Jewelers, West Tennessee Women's Center

RSVP to: Kristy Dew, [kdew@jacksontn.com](mailto:kdew@jacksontn.com) or 423-2200 for both events, above.

### DID YOU KNOW?...

... Jackson, originally named Alexandria, was renamed in 1822 to honor General Andrew Jackson, a hero of the War of 1812. Jackson later became the seventh president of the United States.

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