

Good Evening and Happy Thursday Memphis!



December has arrived along with the holiday season we all love. However, as the month moves along, continue modifying your celebrations to adhere to public health protocols. To be clear: Limit your gatherings to your household members. Furthermore, maintain social distancing, wash your hands regularly, and *wear your mask*. Doing so is vital in the effort to keep *all* Memphians safe, while also preventing our City's valued healthcare infrastructure from being overwhelmed in the weeks ahead. You can do this, Memphis! Your effort counts now more than ever.

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This week your Memphis City Council met to discuss measures focused on moving Memphis forward in the areas of public health, economic assistance, blight remediation, and public safety. If you were not able to virtually participate in the meeting via live-stream on the Council website, YouTube, or 88.5 FM (WQOX), a full review is provided, [here](#).

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Supporting a Statewide Mask Mandate:

The Council is, and will always be, concerned with your health. Since the start of the pandemic, we have received regular public health reports tracking the spread of COVID-19 within our community. During that time, it has been made clear: **Masks work**. Not only do facial coverings prevent the spread of the virus, they also provide the benefit of protecting the person wearing them in spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained.

This summer, the City of Memphis established a mask mandate. We now believe the State of Tennessee should join other states in doing the same.

As a reminder, a mask is not a political statement, it is a resource in the fight to save lives. The numbers are stark. With a statewide positivity rate nearing 20%, and hospitals nearing capacity, the time to act is now.

With that in mind, on Tuesday, the Council approved a resolution requesting Governor Bill Lee to issue an executive order mandating that individuals across the State of Tennessee wear a mask when in public – our health and well-being requiring such a measure until a vaccine is widely available.

Funding Work Initiatives to Address Homelessness, Panhandling, and Blight:

The Council is committed to improving the quality of life of Memphians by encouraging employment opportunities wherever possible. We also seek to promote the cleanliness of our City via blight remediation efforts. Therefore, we welcomed the launch of “Work Local,” a program partnership between the Hospitality Hub and the City of Memphis designed to address homelessness, panhandling, and blight. The initiative works by transporting job-seeking homeless and panhandling residents to cleanup sites, where they are then compensated to assist in blight reduction projects. The pay rate is \$10 per hour, and participants receive additional services/counseling as needed.

On Tuesday, the Council took action to support Work Local by passing a resolution authorizing the City of Memphis’ Public Works Division to provide the program with funding in the amount of \$175,000 on an annual basis for a period of three years.

We look forward to seeing this innovative program work toward its three goals, i.e., (1) reducing homelessness and panhandling by giving participants a new

method of earning money, (2) connecting homeless populations with resources designed to move them away from the streets, and (3) contributing to the beautification of the City of Memphis.

Funding for the Division of Fire Services - Tennessee Task Force 1:

Public safety remains a key focus of the Council. As such, on Tuesday, the Council approved a resolution to accept and appropriate supplemental grant program funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$13,464. The funds will be used for the annual sustainment of Tennessee Task Force 1. The action will ensure that National Urban Search and Rescue Response System resources are prepared for mission response, as well as to provide qualified personnel in support of Emergency Support Function-9 activities under the National Incident Management System and National Response Plan.

Funding for the Division of Police Services:

The Council also approved a resolution to accept and appropriate a donation from Bellevue Inn in the amount of \$1,000. The monetary amount will be used to fund operational activities at the Crump Precinct.

Thank you, Bellevue Inn!

Submit Your Feedback – New Memphis Police Department Director:

The City of Memphis has hired the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to conduct an extensive search for the next Memphis Police Department Director. However, *your* feedback is sought now. To assist in the search, IACP released a survey to gather community feedback. Your input will be utilized to develop characteristics and qualifications of an ideal candidate.

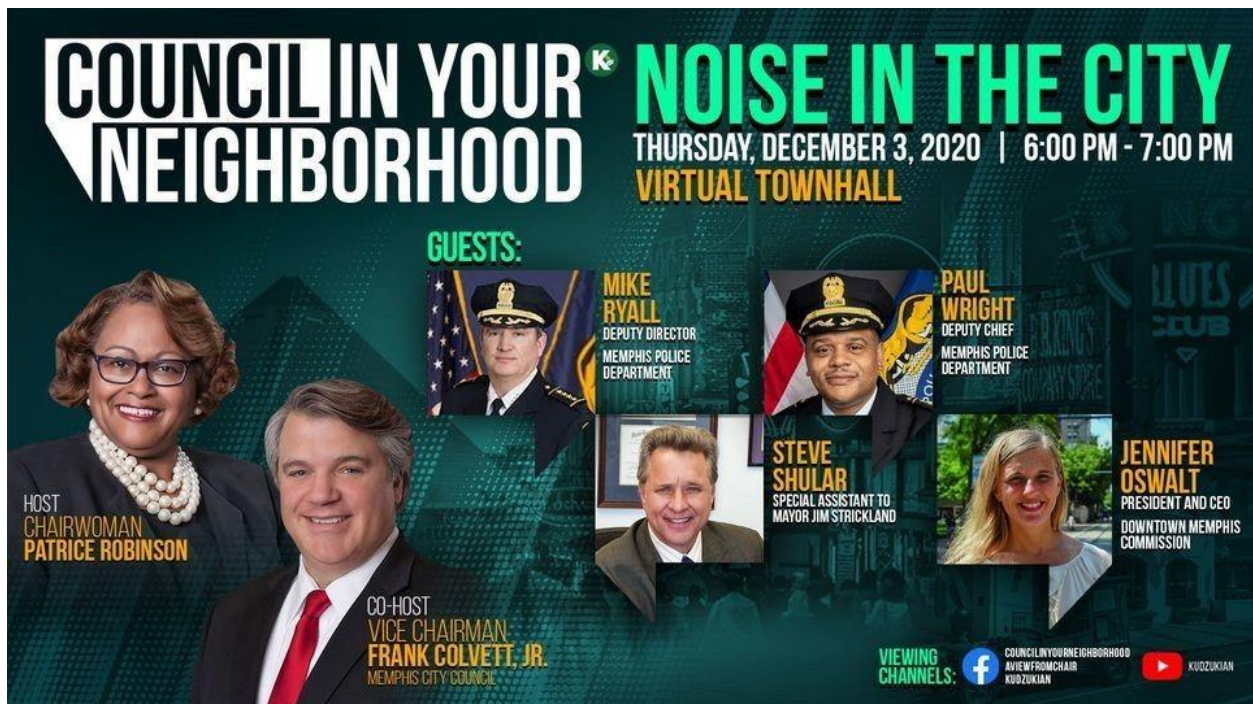
Be heard, today, via the link below. We also ask that you share the survey with your family, social, and professional networks to maximize engagement among Memphis' diverse citizenry. Please respond by **December 14, 2020**.

Survey provided, [here](#).

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Tune In Tonight at 6:00 p.m. – Virtual Town Hall Meeting:

Council In Your Neighborhood returns **tonight** with a virtual Town Hall Meeting. The topic will be noise in the city. I will host the event. Speakers will include Vice Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr. - Memphis City Council District 2, President/CEO Jennifer Oswalt - Downtown Memphis Commission, Deputy Director Mike Ryall - Memphis Police Department, Steve Shular - Special Assistant to Mayor Jim Strickland, and Deputy Chief Paul Wright - Memphis Police Department. The event flyer, details, and instructions regarding question submissions are provided below:



Location: (Virtual) Click one of the four options: (1) Kudzukian Network's [Facebook page](#), (2) Kudzukian Network's [YouTube channel](#), (3) the View from the Chair [Facebook page](#), and (4) the Council In Your Neighborhood [Facebook page](#)

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Submitting Questions: Submit your questions via the comment box located below the video player on (1) Kudzukian Network's Facebook page, (2) Kudzukian Network's YouTube channel, (3) the View from the Chair Facebook page, **or** (4) the Council In Your Neighborhood Facebook page.

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Looking Forward:

As we move ahead, I am and will always be honored to serve you each day as part of a thirteen-councilmember team working to transform our great city into a place of opportunity for all. Stay tuned for future Council updates as we keep you informed regarding the activities taking place here at City Hall.

With earnest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrice J. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "R".

Patrice Jordan Robinson
Chairwoman, Memphis City Council
District 3