

Good Morning and Happy New Year Memphis!



This recap is an especially meaningful one for me because this is my first recap as Chairwoman of the Memphis City Council. I am pleased, honored, and humbled to serve alongside my fellow council members as we work to position Memphis as an unrivaled city of opportunity, innovation, and empowerment for every man, woman, and child residing within our reach. The first Council meeting of 2020 took place on Tuesday (as always, the full picture is [here](#)).

Reaching New Heights with a New Memphis City Council:

On January 1, the City of Memphis inauguration took place on the campus of the University of Memphis. At that time, six new and seven returning council members took the oath of office, formally establishing *your* Memphis City Council for the next four years. Together we will continue our focus on the issues affecting the everyday lives our diverse citizenry, while also expanding the scope of what we are able to accomplish as a legislative body in the years to come. During my inaugural address, I emphasized the need to champion the will of *all* the people. To that end, it is imperative that we increase community input on Council actions, and ultimately with the formulation of our legislative decisions. Furthermore, we must ensure that the laws we enact

are easily understood, and up-to-date to provide consistency with those on the state and federal levels.

Starting today, I will re-dedicate myself to accomplishing those all-important objectives; the present and future well-being of our city requires it. Notwithstanding, whether we succeed in the long-term will be wholly dependent upon our ability to rally together, working as a unified team. Therefore, as we stand on the precipice of a new decade, brimming with the potential to produce transformative change for all, I am grateful to be a teammate within a thirteen-member coalition committed to conducting the work that is necessary to propel Memphis forward in 2020 and beyond.

Now, please join me in welcoming new Memphis City Council Members Chase Carlise, Michalyn Easter-Thomas, Edmund Ford, Sr., Rhonda Logan, JB Smiley, Jr., and Dr. Jeff Warren. The new members fill the positions of Super District 9-1, District 7, District 6, District 1, Super District 8-1, and Super District 9-3, respectively. Alongside returning Memphis City Council Members Ford Canale, Vice Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr., Cheyenne Johnson, Martavius Jones, Worth Morgan, Jamita Swearengen, and myself, the new-look Memphis City Council exists as a dynamic force, equipped with an array of personal and professional skills that will be utilized in service to all, as we strive each day to build a better Memphis for all.

Increasing Funding for Local Literacy Initiatives:

The Council believes education is fundamental to creating a foundation for future life success. On Tuesday, in alignment with our goal to position Memphis as a city of opportunity, especially for our youngest citizens, we passed a resolution accepting and appropriating grant funds in the amount of \$17,500.00 from International Paper. The funds will be used to support literacy programming at our City's local community centers.

Bringing Money Back to the City of Memphis:

The Council is also aware that money must be used wisely. We must also seek out repayment when it is due. On Tuesday, the Council accepted a reimbursement in the amount of \$781,031.75 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for expenses incurred when City of Memphis services were utilized during the first responder efforts associated with recent Hurricane Dorian. The repayment will allow the Council to bring funds back to the City of Memphis for use in improving the daily lives of all our citizens.

Improving Public Works for the City of Memphis:

Finally, the Council recognizes the need to maintain quality infrastructure for the City and its residents to thrive. On Tuesday, the Council approved the use of \$3,481,390.00 for use in repairing sanitary sewer pipes and local flood control pump station operations. The upkeep of our extensive Public Works framework is vital and will continue over the next four years.

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Finally, as we move ahead, please note that the Council will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month (see the entire 2020 Council Meeting Schedule, [here](#)). Stay tuned for future Council updates as we keep you informed regarding the exciting activities taking place here at City Hall!

In closing, I look forward to serving as Chairwoman of your Memphis City Council as we work tirelessly to lift Memphis to new heights in this new year.

With earnest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrice J. Robinson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Patrice Jordan Robinson
Chairwoman, Memphis City Council
District 3