

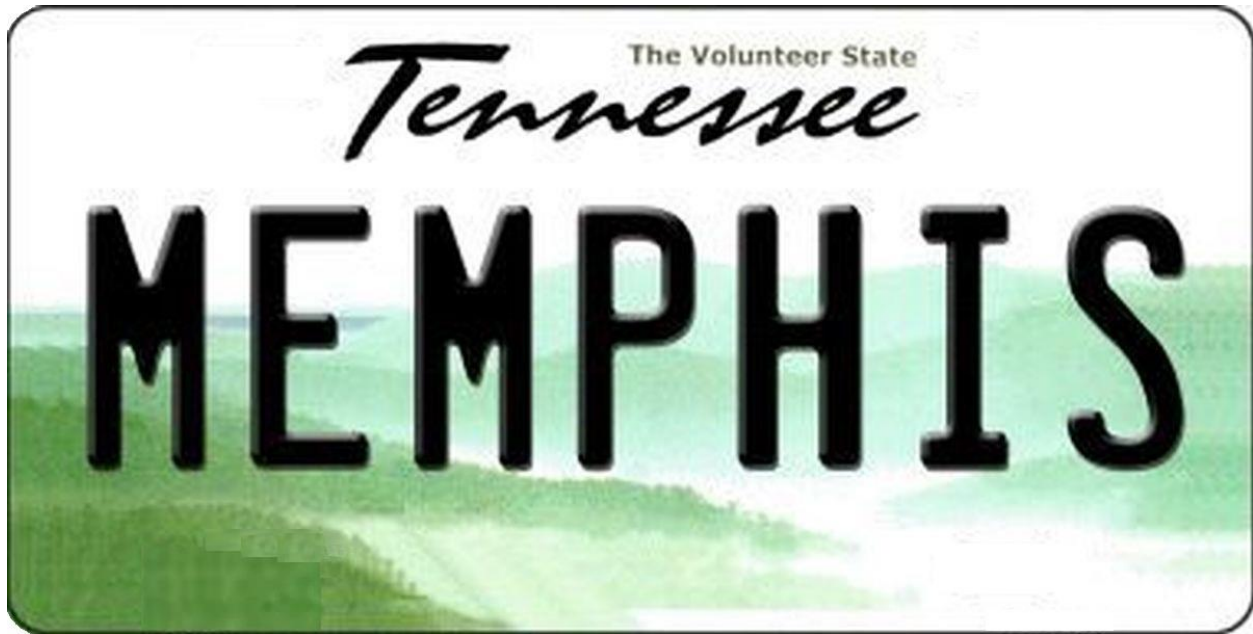
## **Good Morning and Happy Thursday Memphis!**

Before we delve into the first recap for the month of April, I want to take a moment to commemorate the life of the late former Councilwoman Florence Leffler, who passed away on Monday at the age of 94. Councilwoman Leffler was a trailblazer whose spirit of tenacity, drive to achieve, and genuine love of community led her to reach heights worthy of inspiring others, myself included. A Texan by birth, but a Memphian by choice, Councilwoman Leffler was a teacher, an actress, and public servant. However, these titles, alone, do not fully capture the body of her work.

Fueled by a desire to *always* give her all, as an educator she became the first female high school principal within Memphis City Schools. For many, that accomplishment would have been enough. However, that was not the case with Councilwoman Leffler. Afterwards, she thrived in a career as a professional actress, performing in various roles in Manhattan-based, off-Broadway productions. Again, *always* giving her all. Notwithstanding, that too, did not suffice! Subsequently, she returned home and launched a career in public service, becoming one of the first women elected to the Memphis City Council. While in service to her community, Councilwoman Leffler's penchant for historic achievements arose once more, as she served two consecutive terms, becoming one of the first female Chairpersons of the City of Memphis' legislative branch of government. And yet, even that does not capture the entirety of her contributions.

Just as she *always* gave her all within her various careers, Councilwoman Leffler put forth an equal amount of effort in her personal life. She was a dedicated mother, wife, and friend. Finally, she genuinely wanted what was best for all those she encountered. Join me in celebrating the life of the late former Councilwoman Florence Leffler. May her legacy inspire our present and future endeavors.

On Tuesday, the Memphis City Council convened remotely to discuss ways to move Memphis forward. The meeting was broadcast via live-stream, as well as via social media. If you did not listen to Tuesday's Council meeting, a full review can be found, [here](#).



### **Preventing Vehicle Registration Citations through June 2020:**

The effects of COVID-19 are far-reaching and must be taken seriously. As we come together to stay apart for the purpose of stopping the spread of the virus, the Council realizes there are some situations that require the use of vehicles as they relate to health, safety, and roles within essential service-based jobs. With that reasoning in mind, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee issued an [Executive Order](#) on March 19, 2020 extending the vehicle registration deadline for motor vehicle renewals due between March 12, 2020 and May 18, 2020. Instead, per Governor Lee's order, such registrations are due June 15, 2020.

On Tuesday, the Council, joined by the City of Memphis' Division of Police Services, discussed the Governor's executive order, its extension of the vehicle registration deadline for motor vehicle renewals due between March 12, 2020 and May 18, 2020, as well as vehicle registration citations issued by the Memphis Police Department during the COVID-19 crisis. As a result of the conversation, the Division of Police Services explained that officers with the Memphis Police Department **will not issue citations on expired tags until June 2020**. Furthermore, the Division of Police Services agreed to avoid issuing citations on expired tags, exclusively, until June 2020, due to the difficulty of completing motor vehicle renewals at this time.

So, what does this mean for drivers within the City of Memphis? Without question, abide by [Mayor Strickland's Safer-At-Home Executive Order](#), and limit trips to those related to health, safety, and roles within essential service-

based jobs. However, if you must use your vehicle, **the Memphis Police Department will not issue vehicle registration citations until June 2020**. We thank the Division of Police Services for working with us on your behalf.

### **Improving Safety for All on City Streets:**

Safety is of utmost importance to the Council, and will remain so, period. On Tuesday, we acted with that goal in mind by approving, on third and final reading, a city-wide speed enforcement photographic system that will monitor vehicle activity on our city streets. Drivers who violate City of Memphis speed limits will be fined accordingly. At present, 19 speed cameras will be activated in 15 locations, at s-curves and within school zones, to discourage dangerous driving. The cameras placed at s-curves begin operation immediately. Meanwhile, cameras placed within school zones will not begin operation until August 2020. The City Court Clerk will administer the speed enforcement photographic system, its fines, and collections. Penalties assessed under the speed enforcement photographic system will be (1) civil, non-criminal, violations, (2) will not be recorded by the Division of Police Services, or the State Department of Safety on the driving record of the (i.) vehicle owner, or (ii.) driver of the vehicle, and (3) may not be considered in motor vehicle insurance coverage.

Finally, all net revenues generated from penalties assessed under the speed enforcement photographic system that exceed the cost of operation and administration will be apportioned for traffic safety projects that benefit the citizens of the City of Memphis navigating our streets by foot, bike, and vehicle, on the way to work, to school, to church, and as recreation. In the end, the Council views this program as vital to improving safety for all on our streets and within our neighborhoods.

### **Seeking Assistance During COVID-19:**

Two weeks ago, with COVID-19 in mind, I encouraged you all to understand that it is normal for adults, children, and families, alike, to experience feelings of fear and anxiety about the virus. Nonetheless, I am steadfast in my belief that **we will overcome this difficult time together**. As we work toward resolving our current challenges, please seek appropriate medical and mental support if you are experiencing fear and anxiety that is negatively affecting your daily life, or that of your loved ones.

If you require assistance, but do not know where to go when seeking professional care, call **2-1-1**, or visit <http://tn211.mycommunitypt.com/>.

**2-1-1** is Tennessee's community services help line. When you call **2-1-1**, you'll get a real person, one who is trained to help you sort out your needs, and then give you phone numbers and addresses of the closest places where you can get help within the Greater Memphis Area. Please take care of yourself. Always remember, there is no shame in seeking help!

**Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund:**

Mayor Strickland has regularly advocated for increased support of the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund. I echo his sentiment. This fund, hosted by The Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, supports those within our city and region affected by the ongoing public health crisis. Donations to the fund provide immediate monetary support to local relief, recovery, and resiliency efforts. As of Monday, April 6, 2020, donors have contributed over \$1,500,000.00 to the fund, and over \$820,000 has been deployed directly to organizations assisting in providing solutions to issues related to COVID-19. Examples of these organizations include the American Red Cross – Memphis Chapter, the Mid-South Food Bank, MIFA, and the Memphis Crisis Center. Please consider donating, today, by visiting [cfgm.org/COVID](http://cfgm.org/COVID).

**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,



Patrice Jordan Robinson  
Chairwoman, Memphis City Council  
District 3