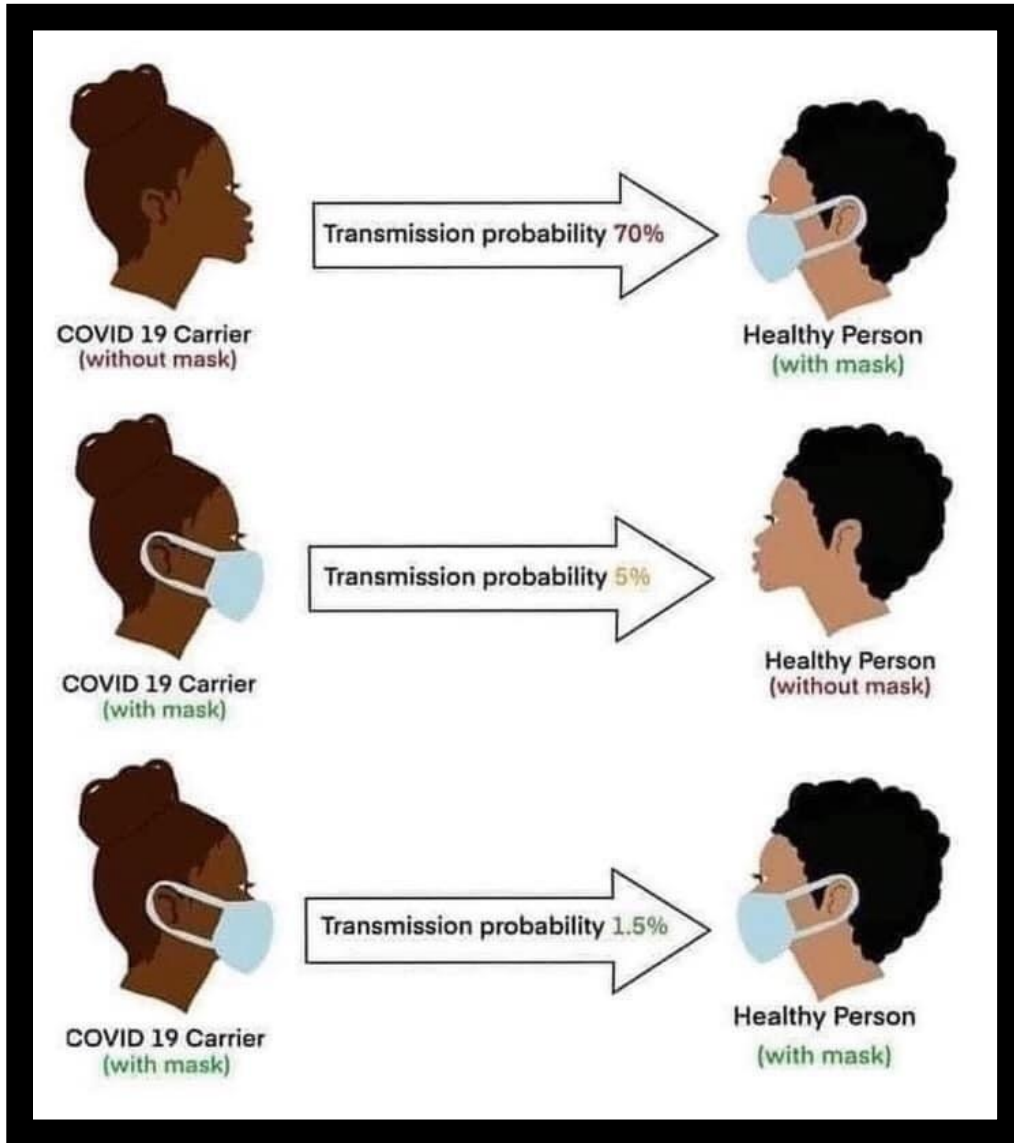


Good Afternoon and Happy Thursday Memphis!

On Tuesday your Memphis City Council reconvened to consider two items related to our ongoing response to COVID-19 and its health and financial impact upon the men, women, and children of our community. The meeting was broadcast on the Memphis City Council website via live-stream.

If you were not able to watch in real-time, a full review is provided, [here](#).



Protecting the Well-Being of All Memphians:

For over a month, we have asked you to stay apart, for the purpose of coming together, to fight the spread of COVID-19. In response, you answered the call, doing so in earnest. At this time, the Council thanks you for your ongoing

efforts as the City of Memphis and our neighboring municipalities have directly benefited from your collective cooperation.

However, additional public health measures are necessary to ensure that we protect the well-being of **all** Memphians, namely our citizens leaving home each day to perform job-related duties.

With that in mind, on Tuesday, the Council passed a resolution strongly encouraging all businesses to require their employees to wear non-medical facial coverings, to include bandanas, scarves, and other cloth materials, while at work, at the employer's expense, when they become available. The decision was made after realizing further action is still needed to lessen the likelihood of the virus being transmitted unknowingly within the workplace, an environment where person-to-person interaction regularly occurs.

Presently, a nuanced understanding of COVID-19 is still being developed. However, we do know that the deadly respiratory disease is (1) highly contagious, and (2) capable of being spread by individuals who do not exhibit symptoms. Therefore, by adhering to strict social distancing policies, while also strongly encouraging the use of non-medical facial coverings by employees working throughout Memphis, the Council hopes to promote the normalization of new social practices that protect and save lives within our community.

Providing Emergency Relief to Memphians in Need of Assistance:

Regarding economic impact, the Council hears you loud and clear: We are aware of the negative effects rendered by the COVID-19 crisis upon your financial well-being. In response, on Tuesday, the Council passed a resolution establishing the Council Emergency Relief Program (CERP) to address the challenges facing Memphians at this time.

Funded by stimulus aid provided to the City of Memphis by the CARES Act, the CERP will consist of \$10,000,000 to be used to meet the needs of Memphis citizens and families struggling with unemployment and related monetary uncertainty. In doing so, the Council desires to create a path toward assistance that is (1) driven by community issues, (2) designed to support organizations contributing to COVID-19 relief, and (3) responsive to the second-order effects of the emergency by providing support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19 related business closures.

Specifically, in working with community partners and public agencies, the CERP funds will be disbursed in the following manner with details provided thereafter:

1. Welcome to Memphis - \$600,000
2. Personal Care Professionals - \$1,200,000
3. MIFA Unrestricted Emergency Services - \$2,500,000
4. Mid-South Food Bank - \$500,000
5. Artists Emergency Fund - \$200,000
6. Office of Business Diversity and Compliance (OBDC)- \$2,000,000
7. COM Stabilization Fund (will be housed and administered by OBDC) - \$3,000,000

Regarding Welcome to Memphis, the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis will receive a CERP disbursement of \$600,000 to supplement the Welcome to Memphis Fund established in partnership with Memphis Tourism. The Welcome to Memphis fund will award one-time \$300 grants to Memphis residents employed as hourly workers within the Tourism and Hospitality industries, who have been terminated or furloughed due to COVID-19.

As it relates to Personal Care Professionals, the Administration will work with the Council to create and select a fiscal agent for the Personal Care Professionals Grant Program. The fiscal agent will receive \$1,200,000 in CERP funds to distribute \$300 grants to Memphis residents employed in the personal care professions, including but not limited to, cosmetologists, barbers, nail technicians, massage therapists, etc. who have been laid off, had their hours reduced, or their place of employment closed or restricted due to COVID-19.

Next, the funds disbursed to MIFA will be used to provide utility bill assistance of up to \$200 per participant, for up to 7,500 City of Memphis residents, for a total of \$1,500,000. Additionally, \$1,000,000 of allocated funds will be disbursed for rent, food, and clothing assistance through an array of established MIFA programs to Memphis residents who have been laid off, had their hours reduced, or their place of employment closed or restricted due to COVID-19.

Regarding the Mid-South Food Bank, the organization will receive \$500,000 in the form of a grant to supplement its ongoing COVID-19 relief efforts, including an increased mobile food pantry.

As it relates to the Artists Emergency Fund, the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis will receive a CERP disbursement of \$200,000 to supplement

the Artists Emergency Fund established in concert with ArtsMemphis and Music Export Memphis. The allocation will support Memphis-resident artists of all types across the musical, visual, film, media, literary, dance, and theater arts.

Of benefit to eligible local, small business owners, OBDC will administer the CERP Payment Protection Program, which will provide small business forgivable loans of up to \$5,000. We are happy to announce that the forgivable loan program will be funded by \$2,000,000, total.

Finally, the Administration will work with the Council to create the City of Memphis Business Stabilization Fund Forgivable Loan Program, in the amount of \$3,000,000, to provide short-term working capital to businesses that are facing sudden and severe revenue shortfalls because of recent executive orders. OBDC will also administer this assistance program.

In all, the Council is actively working to address the unique needs felt by our individual citizens experiencing hardship related to COVID-19. Please know that we will navigate through our present challenges successfully, together.

Looking Forward:

As we move ahead, I am excited by the new opportunities that exist on the horizon for our great city, and its hardworking residents. 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.

Patrice Jordan Robinson
Chairwoman, Memphis City Council
District 3