

Good Afternoon and Happy Tuesday Memphis!

It is hard to believe that we are nearly done with the first month of 2021. The Memphis City Council is busy at work on issues that concern the citizens of Memphis as we continue to weather the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you were not able to attend Tuesday's Memphis City Council Meeting, a full review is available [here](#).



Celebrating the life of the late basketball legend Jerry C. Johnson

The Memphis City Council observed a moment of silence in honor of the life of legendary LeMoyne-Owen College basketball coach, Jerry C. Johnson. The Memphis basketball icon passed away on Sunday, January 24th, 2021, at the young age of 102. At the time of his retirement in 2006, Johnson was ranked first among active NCAA Division II coaches with 821 wins in 46 seasons and is one of just six NCAA men's basketball coaches who have won more than 800 games. He was the first Black basketball coach to win a Division III national title, and LeMoyne-Owen became the first Historically Black College and University to

accomplish the feat. In 2012, Lemoyne-Owen renamed their gymnasium in Johnson's honor.



An Honorary Street Name for the late Father Nicholas L. Vieron

A resolution was approved for an honorary street naming of a portion of N Highland Street between Galloway Ave and Shirlwood Ave for Father Nicholas L. Vieron. This resolution was sponsored by Councilman Canale. A pillar in the faith community, Father Nicholas L. Vieron was a strong advocate for human rights who joined with other ministers to help heal the Memphis community in the aftermath of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's assassination in 1968. He was assigned to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in 1955 and eventually served as main Priest, a position he held until his retirement in 1991. He continued to serve in the clergy until his passing in September 2020 at the age of 94.



Recording Artist Lil Baby Recognized for Donation to Memphis Citizens

A resolution was approved to honor the contribution to the citizens of Memphis of recording artist Dominique “Lil Baby” Jones, who sponsored a donation of coats for the Warm Wishes Coat Drive, an event held by Councilman JB Smiley, Jr. on January 23rd, 2021 at Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) College Prep High School. Lil Baby donated proceeds from his June 2020 hit song “The Bigger Picture” to help people in need, and the coat drive was one of the initiatives chosen to give back to the community. Approximately 875 coats were donated to families in need at the event. The remaining coats were donated to MLK Prep for distribution in the Frayser community.



Memphis City Council Votes to Join with Sister Cities in Requesting that the Biden/Harris Administration Adopt a National Vaccine Distribution Plan

A resolution passed unanimously in the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee requesting the Council Chairman to join a request by the mayors of 22 of the largest cities in the United States for a national vaccination distribution plan for cities. During the committee meeting, all Council members signed on as co-sponsors for this resolution. Memphis currently receives 8,000-9,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine per week. In order to keep up with the Biden/Harris pledge to deliver 100 million vaccines in the first 100 days of the administration, the supply needed to meet that goal must be drastically increased, especially in getting vaccines to African American and other underserved communities in the Memphis area in order to help curb further negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution Regarding U.S. Capitol Riot

A resolution requesting the Division of Police Services to investigate whether any City of Memphis employees participated in the U.S. Capitol riot in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021, was heard in today's meeting. This resolution was sponsored by Councilwoman Michalyn Easter-Thomas, Councilman Martavius Jones, Councilman JB Smiley, Jr., and Councilman Dr. Jeff Warren. The resolution

supports investigation by federal law enforcement agencies or the Division of Police Services into credible information on the participation of any City of Memphis employee in the riot. It was unanimously approved by the full Council.

Tourism Development Zone Surcharge for One Beale Development

An Ordinance designating a public use facility and creation of the Tourism Development Zone tourism surcharge for the One Beale development was adopted following its Third and Final reading. The multi-phase, multi-use One Beale development is currently under construction at the foot of Beale Street and aims to drive tourism and financial investment at the 5.5-acre site near landmarks such as the Orpheum Theater and Memphis riverfront.

In conclusion

Memphis is moving forward as we proceed further into this new year. We reflect on the legends that we have lost and look forward to working toward hearing and addressing the concerns of all Memphians. As the pandemic continues, the Memphis City Council is committed to the best outcomes for Memphians and is always seeking to serve the citizens to the best of our ability.

With earnest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Colvett, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Frank Colvett, Jr.

Chairman, Memphis City Council

District 2