

Good Evening and Happy Wednesday, Memphis!



“The best way out is always through.”

When commenting on life’s challenges, American poet Robert Frost noted that the best way out is forward. In doing so, he distinguished between decisions available to men and women faced with obstacles that appear difficult to overcome. While there is always the option to succumb to uncertainty, there is *also* the choice to persevere with an eye fixed upon better days ahead. As you apply yourself each day, do so having chosen the latter. Although, the last year may have proven difficult for citizens locally, as well as across the world, hope is in sight. By committing ourselves today, we can and will ensure a brighter tomorrow.

With that in mind, yesterday your Memphis City Council met to discuss measures focused on improving the City of Memphis for all. 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](#).

--

Funding Efforts to Protect All Memphians:

As the coronavirus persists, relief has arrived in the way of vaccinations. With immunizations now offering the possibility of reducing both mortality as well as transmission, a path toward relief is on the horizon. To that point, the Council is dedicated to ensuring that Memphians have widespread and efficient access to life-saving medicine.

Recently, the State of Tennessee determined that the City of Memphis will take over as custodian of vaccine shipments to Shelby County. In response,

on Tuesday, the Council took action by passing a resolution to reallocate \$1M from the Council Emergency Relief Program to Mayor Jim Strickland's Administration for unanticipated costs of vaccine distribution. The measure reflects the Council's confidence in Mayor Strickland's Administration to adequately administer vaccination efforts across Shelby County. Moreover, the funds will address the need to achieve equitable immunization operations within minority neighborhoods.

As the work continues, the Council also learned from Pastor Kia Moore who spoke on efforts to increase vaccination rates within the African-American community. View Pastor Moore's presentation, [here](#).

Adopting an Improved Future for Memphis Parks:

Every great city has a great parks system. As such, our outdoor spaces and facilities must not only be maintained, but also improved and creatively utilized to reach their full potential in the long-term. Equally important, these public assets directly ensure a healthier Memphis. In light of these benefits, yesterday, the Council approved a resolution to adopt the City of Memphis' Division of Parks and Neighborhoods' Parks Master Plan.

In addition to being a standard industry practice used to guide park and recreation growth, the approved Parks Master Plan – which includes the input of over 3,000 Memphians – will inform the development of Memphis' beloved parks for the next decade, i.e., as an appendix of the Memphis 3.0 Comprehensive Plan.

Reducing Noise Pollution within Memphis City Limits:

As we work to envision an improved Memphis for all, we must actively consider issues affecting quality of life and peace of mind. To date, the Council has received countless comments from citizens concerned about increased noise pollution produced by vehicles with improper mufflers within our neighborhoods and upon our roadways.

To be clear, you asked and we answered.

On Tuesday, the Council passed a resolution creating a Muffler Exchange Program with an aim to incentivize properly working mufflers.

Let me ask you: Did you know that a *properly* working muffler provides benefits to the vehicle owner as well as the environment? In fact, a well-maintained muffler maximizes automobile performance, mitigates pollutants, and reduces noise.

Under the newly formed Muffler Exchange Program, citizens who receive a traffic citation under Section 21-335 (Muffler required) or Section 21-350 (Mufflers) may have their traffic citation dismissed **IF** the citizen:

- (1) resides within the City of Memphis,
- (2) possesses a valid driver's license,
- (3) *does not* have a modified muffler,
- (4) is approved by the City Court to be a participant of the Muffler Exchange Program, which provides a 60-day muffler repair voucher, and finally
- (5) has his or her muffler repaired or serviced by (i.) Holley's Automotive or (ii.) Rufus Discount Muffler and Brakes to ensure that the muffler in question works properly moving forward.

The exchange program is funded via donations from the Summer Avenue Merchants' Association in the amount of \$10,000 in partnership with Holley's Automotive and Rufus Discount Muffler and Brakes. Taken together, the effort represents an innovative approach to reducing pollution of multiple types within the City of Memphis.

Join me in thanking the parties involved!

Improving the City of Memphis' Skyline:

Economic development remains a priority of the Memphis City Council. However, blighted properties stymie growth within areas possessing great potential. A key example exists with the 100 N. Main building. At 430 feet tall, the 37-floor skyscraper remains one of the most iconic structures within the City of Memphis. Nonetheless, for the last seven years it has remained vacant and blighted.

To avoid risking a drag to ongoing development within Downtown Memphis, yesterday the Council took action by purchasing the structure. In doing so, the action furthers the future success of projects like the Renasant Convention Center and the Loews Convention Center Hotel. By taking control of the deteriorating property, we ensure that we are able to guide the future of the building and the improvement of our skyline.

Honoring Memphians Who Served:

When worthy circumstances arise, the Council has seen fit to name certain public roads in honor of citizens who have served this community. On Tuesday, the **late-Judge Teresa Jones** was recognized with an honorary street name. Judge Jones was a force of nature as a Shelby County School Board member, Chief Prosecutor, trial attorney, public defender, adjunct professor, and

Municipal Court Judge. Although no longer with us, her spirit of selflessness remains to inspire us all.

As such, the Council proudly commemorates Judge Jones' legacy of dedication to the City of Memphis by designating N. McLean Boulevard between Jackson Avenue and Vollintine Avenue as "**Judge Teresa Jones Boulevard**" in appreciation for her contributions to the local community.

Additionally, **Mrs. Bert Adler Prosterman** was recognized with an honorary street name. Mrs. Prosterman served as a member of the Memphis City Schools' Board during the 1980s, ultimately reaching the position of School Board President; within these roles, her efforts were instrumental in expanding integration within our local public school system.

Yesterday, the Council was excited to commemorate Mrs. Prosterman's legacy of leadership by designating South Yates Road between Walnut Grove Road and Shady Grove Terrace as "**Bert Adler Prosterman Road.**"

Spread the Word – MLGW Call Center Hours Extended:

Due to increased call volume, beginning March 2, MLGW is temporarily extending the hours of its Customer Care Center. The Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, from now until March 12.

Furthermore, MLGW resumes disconnections for non-payment on Monday, March 8, and is offering an Extended Payment Plan to all customers until March 31. These plans require 25% of the total indebtedness up front, and then the remaining balance is set up on a payment plan for up to 12 months.

Call **(901) 544-6549** to sign up.

--

Looking Forward:

As we move ahead, I am honored to serve you each day as part of a thirteen-councilmember team working to transform our 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.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Colvett, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Frank Colvett, Jr.
Chairman, Memphis City Council
District 2