

Good Afternoon and Happy Friday, Memphis!



Together, we have the tools to succeed in the long-term.

As we move through the first quarter of 2021, it is clear that this year possesses immense potential for our city, its diverse neighborhoods, and hardworking residents. We have encountered challenges, produced solutions, and achieved an unrivaled sense of resilience along the way. Remember, there is no obstacle that we cannot overcome. Together, we will reach greater heights.

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With that in mind, on Tuesday, your Memphis City Council met to discuss measures focused on improving the City of Memphis for all in the areas of public health, environmental protection, public safety, city planning, and economic assistance. 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](#).

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Equitable Access to Life-Saving Vaccines:

Two weeks ago, I explained that the Council was dedicated to funding efforts to protect all Memphians. In doing so, we reallocated \$1M from the Council

Emergency Relief Program to Mayor Jim Strickland's Administration to help fund vaccination efforts across Shelby County.

This week, I am happy to announce that we further committed to that aim by approving a resolution to adopt and fund the Black Church Mobile Vaccine Site Program headed by Pastor Kia Moore.

Pastor Moore recently [presented innovative approaches](#) to increase vaccination rates within the African American community. The Council was impressed by the proposal, and has asked Mayor Strickland to use a portion of the \$1M in funding allocated from the Council Emergency Relief Program to expand Pastor Moore's successful programming into Southeast Memphis, Raleigh, Frayser, South Memphis, and Whitehaven.

In doing so, the Council action works to provide equitable access to life-saving vaccines in the days and weeks ahead.

Voicing Concern and Opposition to the Byhalia Connection Pipeline:

Your health, safety, and well-being are our priority. Period.

Therefore, the Council remains concerned over Byhalia Connection Pipeline, LLC's plan to build a 49-mile pipeline connecting Memphis to Marshall County, Mississippi. Seven miles of this pipeline would traverse Shelby County, sitting atop the Memphis Sand Aquifer, the source of our city's world-renowned drinking water. Although the pipeline company assured the Council that its proposed methods are safe, we could not ignore data indicating that African Americans are, and continue to be, disproportionately impacted by industrial development.

As a result, on Tuesday, the Council passed a resolution opposing the Byhalia Connection Pipeline.

It is important to note that Council opposition *alone* will not stop construction. In fact, without federal intervention, the project may proceed. If the proposed pipeline does move forward despite the Council's opposition, we have requested the following from Byhalia Connection Pipeline, LLC:

- (1) Monthly written reports regarding the status of the project, including the pipeline route, construction activities, and/or operational plans,
- (2) Monthly updates on any investment in the Memphis community or collaboration with local community groups to provide benefits to the Memphis area,

(3) Allowing at least two Memphis City Council Members and/or staff to serve on the Community Advisory Panel, which will be organized by Byhalia Connection Pipeline, LLC to keep the Memphis community apprised of the status of the project, as well as to provide a forum to ask questions and share concerns,

(4) Creation of a financial savings plan, to be presented to the Memphis City Council, in the event of rupture or mechanical failure to cover the cost of repair and ensure the preservation of Memphis resources, and

(5) Scheduling periodic meetings between MLGW and Byhalia Connection Pipeline, LLC to monitor the pipeline route, construction plans, operational plans, and any potential impacts on MLGW operations or resources.

Establishing a Moratorium related to New Gas Stations and Used Tire Shops:

On a related note, the Council sought additional approaches to protect Memphians' quality of life.

To that point, let me ask:

Did you know that the national average for gas stations per every 10,000 people is four?

How about the fact that in Memphis the local average for gas stations per every 10,000 people is six?

So, what does this mean?

In short, more gas stations are located within Memphis, per capita, compared to other American cities. Moreover, the impact is tangible, as the over-proliferation of gas pumps within our neighborhoods diminish citizens' enjoyment of their community from a health and use standpoint.

Keeping that in mind, on Tuesday, the Council approved a resolution establishing a 245-day moratorium on the construction and opening of new gas stations and used tire shops. In the interim, the Division of Planning and Development will study the effects of new gas stations and used tire shops on the City of Memphis and its citizens.

Taken together, the effort works to bring forward a brighter, healthier Memphis for all in accordance with the Memphis 3.0 plan.

Funding Memphis Non-profits via the Memphis City Council Community Grant Program:

In keeping with the Council's desire to promote community-based programming, on Tuesday, a resolution was passed to (1) create the Memphis City Council Community Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), and (2) establish a policy for meeting the needs of citizens and non-profit organization requests for financial assistance.

We all know well that Memphis is a city with a giving spirit and a big heart. With that said, those altruistic qualities can be credited to the work of local non-profit organizations, whom the Council recognizes as valued partners in the effort to improve the lives of all Memphians. By way of Tuesday's measure, the Council will once again establish a non-profit funding process that is transparent in terms of its publication, application, and selection.

Save the date: Non-profit organizations seeking financial assistance via the Fiscal Year 2022 Memphis City Council Community Grant Program can apply starting **April 1, 2021**. All completed applications must be submitted and received by **April 30, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (CDT)**.

See the resolution establishing the Fiscal Year 2022 Memphis City Council Community Grant Program, with eligibility details included, [here](#).

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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 long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Colvett, Jr.

Chairman, Memphis City Council
District 2