

Good Evening Memphis and Happy April!

The spring season is officially here! It has been three weeks since our last Council Meeting, so today's meeting was a busy one! We have officially passed the one-year threshold of the pandemic, and the city is working hard to facilitate the vaccination process for our citizens. More community vaccination locations are now available so stay tuned to the City of Memphis website for updated information.

You can sign up for vaccine appointments [here](#).

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

Appointment to Municipal Court

Attorney Carolyn S. Watkins was appointed as the Interim Judge for Division 1, Municipal Court. This bench was left vacant by the late Judge Teresa Jones. Ms. Watkins has most recently served as administrator of Equal Opportunity Compliance for Shelby County Government.



Update on Solid Waste Management

Solid waste collection has been a big concern for many Memphis residents. Chief Operating Officer Doug McGowen shared an update today on the issues that we have faced recently with Waste Pro. I joined Council Members Canale, Carlisle, Johnson, Logan, Robinson, Smiley, and Warren to co-sponsor a resolution requesting that the Administration terminate and re-bid the Waste Pro contract. This resolution was approved by the council. The city is prepared to issue an emergency contract for trash collection to Team Trash in Area E. Team Trash, along with city crews and other contractors, have been helping with in-cart and outside the cart bulk trash collection in order to catch up on missed collections. The Area E service footprint for trash collection encompasses Cordova, Hickory Hill, and portions of East Memphis. To get the most up-to-date information on trash collection or to download the Memphis Curbside Collection app, [click here](#).

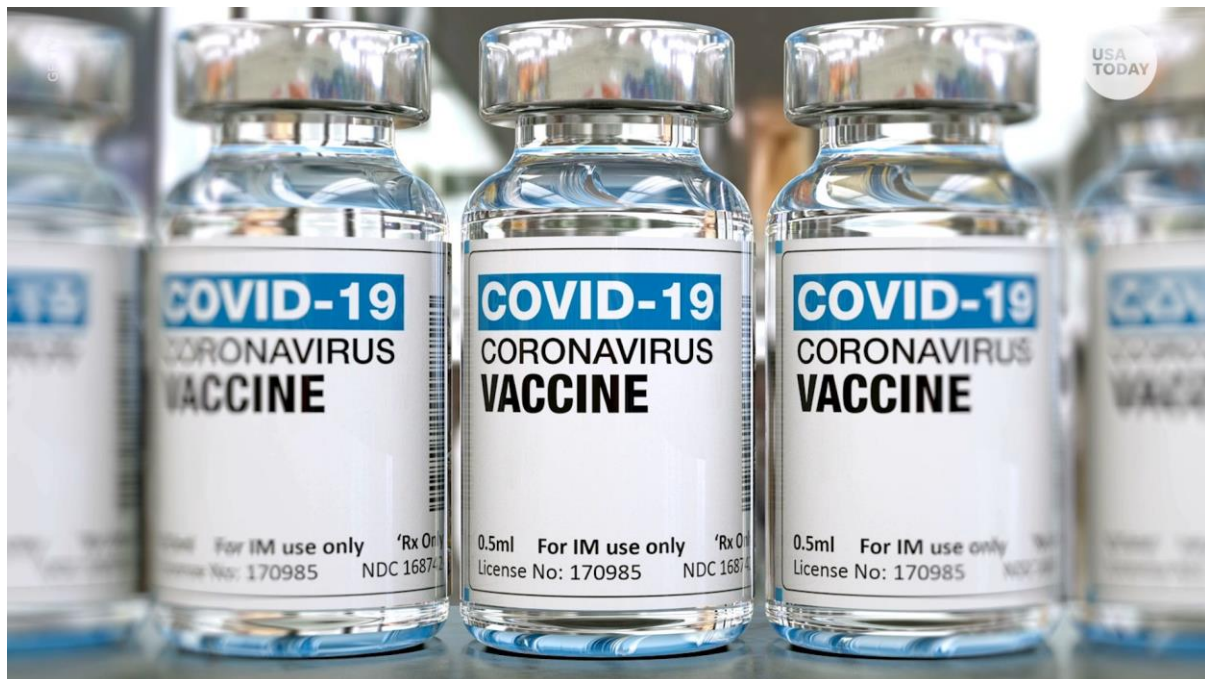
A Trio of Honorary Street Name Changes

Today we adopted honorary street name changes for three outstanding Memphians. Councilwoman Robinson sponsored an honorary street name change for Mr. Andrew Love for Brakebill Cove. Vice Chairwoman Swearengen sponsored an honorary street name change of Haynes Street between Barron Avenue and Park Avenue for Mr. LaVaughn Bridges. Finally, I was honored to sponsor an honorary street name change of Sea Isle Road between Estate Drive and South White Station Road for the late Mrs. Patricia Merrill, who was a former Chairwoman of Memphis City Beautiful.



Liberty Park project update

The Liberty Park redevelopment project continues to move ahead! The Administration provided an update on the upcoming phases of the project and brought forth a resolution requesting EDGE issue up to \$75 million in revenue bonds and lend the proceeds to the city to fund a portion of the project. The 2A phase of the project is slated to begin with sitework for the new Memphis Sports & Event Center this May and includes construction of the center, site preparation for mixed-use development (retail, multi-family residential, restaurant and hospitality), and campus infrastructure improvements. The Memphis Sports & Event Center will be a state-of-the-art youth sports facility that is broadcast ready and offers amenities such as a hard-court pavilion, an event pavilion, café, and breakout rooms. This facility is scheduled to begin construction in summer 2021. As part of this presentation, we learned more about the financing of the Liberty Park project, which will be accomplished through Accelerate Memphis funding, Tourism Development Zone bonds, City of Memphis CIP funds, in addition to other funding sources. To stay informed on the progression of the project, visit [this website](#).



Update on COVID-19 Vaccinations

Chief Operating Officer Doug McGowen updated us on the city's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. To date, 375,000 vaccines have been administered and over 250,000 people have been vaccinated with either their first or second

dose. Tomorrow, the federal government will begin operation of the Pipken building and their distribution of 3,000 doses per day. Memphis is one of only a handful of sites in the country to be afforded this opportunity for increased vaccine distribution! Currently, the city is distributing 50,000-55,000 vaccine doses per week. Efforts have also been aimed at increasing vaccinations at community sites and also working with community organizations to increase vaccinations to homebound individuals and those experiencing homelessness. There are many vaccine appointments available at sites around the city. Shelby County is currently the leading county in the state for the number of vaccinations administered. To schedule your vaccine appointment at one of the many locations around the city, visit covid19.memphistn.gov.

Coming Soon

Please stay tuned for the following items that will be coming up on the next meeting's agenda:

- Final reading of the ordinance on preservation of the Memphis Sands Aquifer
- Resolution approving the creation of the Memphis Academy of Civic Engagement
- Resolution to add Juneteenth Independence Day as a City of Memphis paid holiday

In conclusion

Based on our update today from Chief McGowen, there are many vaccine appointments that are going unfilled. The city has been able to increase the weekly supply of vaccine coming to Memphis, and we MUST shots in arms. With the new federal vaccine operation at the Pipkin building, the opportunity for increased distribution to community clinics, medical offices and other sites has been a way of expanding vaccine availability to even more citizens. As we move farther into April, I know that we will continue to make more progress in this effort so that we can begin to inch closer to things getting to "normal."

With earnest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Colvett, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Frank Colvett, Jr.

Chairman, Memphis City Council

District 2