

Good Evening and Happy Tuesday, Memphis!



As I write the first recap for the month of July, I hope you each enjoyed a wonderful Independence Day! Since the Fourth, I welcomed the opportunity to reflect on the potential possessed within our city, as well as our nation. In doing so, I was reminded of the words of President Harry S. Truman, who keenly noted that our country “was not built upon fear.” Rather, “America was built on *courage*, on *imagination*, and an *unbeatable determination* to do the job at hand.”

In like manner, so was the City of Memphis.

From the river to our eastern, northern, and southern reaches, our community has grown atop a foundation of hard work, perseverance, and ingenuity. So, as we peer ahead to the days yet to come, and the fiscal year just begun, let us work together fueled by our collective, indomitable spirit with progress for every Memphian as our aim.

Today, your Memphis City Council convened to further that all-important end. However, 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](#).

Supporting Memphis Citizens in Need of Rental and Utility Assistance:

The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been felt in disparate ways across our City. To ensure that our local recovery efforts address the needs of citizens experiencing housing and utility insecurity, the Council continues to support efforts to provide related aid.

Recently, the United States Department of Treasury, through the Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Fund, provided payments to state and local governments responding to the concerns of citizens who have fallen behind on housing-based obligations. As part of a second allocation, the City of Memphis received funding in the amount of \$24,532,239.

This evening, I am happy to announce that the Council approved a resolution to appropriate and allocate the monetary amount for use by the Division of Housing and Community Development in furtherance of the city's local Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance program.

Applications for rental and utility assistance are available, [here](#), and can be submitted through **July 14, 2021**.

Addressing Drag Racing and Reckless Driving on Memphis Streets:

Erratic driving by unsafe motorists has proliferated for far too long. Period.

In March 2021, the Council took action aimed at mitigating excessive muffler noise within our neighborhoods. Today, we focused our efforts on curtailing drag racing and reckless driving upon Memphis streets.

Specifically, after considering the health, safety, and welfare of Memphis citizens and visitors, the Council passed a substitute ordinance that prohibits and penalizes the organization of, and participation in, drag racing and related reckless driving exhibitions. As a result, individuals in violation of the new restrictions will be issued citations carrying fines and requiring court appearances.

Funding the Division of Fire Services:

Related to our effort to address the well-being of Memphis citizens, the Council welcomes opportunities to support our City's first responders. Therefore, today we approved a series of resolutions appropriating and allocating \$99,702 for use by the Division of Fire Services.

Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase equipment, and to secure training, which will work to ensure that the division continues to meet and exceed national standards of excellence as a *top-one-percent-rated* department in the United States.

Maintaining our City's Valued Infrastructure:

As every city grows, so does its infrastructure. To this point, the Council is dedicated to maintaining our physical infrastructure for the benefit of our citizens each day. With this in mind, today the Council approved a resolution to appropriate a construction allocation of \$500,000.

Specifically, the funds will be used to repair curbs and gutters across all Council districts. Taken together, the measure will work to preserve our valued Public Works and Engineering network for use by present and future generations.

Supporting Memphis Public Libraries:

Finally, reading is fundamental, and our local public libraries serve as an oasis for Memphians seeking educational enrichment. As we work to encourage the development of strong communities and even stronger minds, the Council supports efforts to enhance the Division of Library Services.

As such, this evening we passed a series of resolutions to appropriate and allocate a total of \$13,980 for use by the division. Specifically, the funds will be used to procure software improvements, as well as to bolster digital literacy initiatives across the City of Memphis.

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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 large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr.
Memphis City Council
District 2