

**Good Evening and Happy Tuesday, Memphis!**



Speaking on the importance of action, American naturalist, essayist, poet, and philosopher Henry David Thoreau noted that "***Success comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.***"

With that said, after today's flurry of Council activities, I am confident that our community is better positioned to reach its full potential in the long-term.

If you were not able to virtually participate in today's meeting via live-stream on the Council website, YouTube, or 88.5 FM (WQOX), a full review is provided, [here](#).

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**Update and Presentation on ARPA Funding and Related Recommendations:**

As mentioned during my June 15 Recap, Memphis was fortunate in that we received approximately \$161,061,490 in stimulus aid via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Since that time, additional guidance has been required as it relates to use of the funds. With that in mind, *today* Mayor Jim Strickland's Administration presented a welcomed update that included their proposed funding recommendations for the ARPA dollars over the next three years.

So, how *might* the City of Memphis' ARPA aid be utilized through December 2024?

At this point, it is too early to tell.

Nonetheless, as part of the Mayor's presentation, requested funding areas included, *but were not limited to*:

1. Expanding Memphis' local broadband infrastructure,
2. Partnering with Shelby County Schools to increase access to after-school programming,
3. Funding City of Memphis Mortgage Assistance to offer aid to Memphis residents at risk of foreclosure, and
4. Investing in Public Safety to (i.) reduce crime, (ii.) increase recruitment, and (iii.) improve interactions between public safety officers and non-public safety residents.

Taken together, the ARPA update and presentation coupled with the Administration's related funding recommendations maintained a key theme that the Council values; i.e., securing solutions for all Memphians to ensure a strong, sustained, and equitable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

And while the Council chose not to take formal action today – as we await forthcoming guidance from the U.S. Treasury – you can rest assured that our ultimate ARPA-related decisions will be based in an effort to bring stability to the City of Memphis and our hardworking residents.

See the Administration's presentation, [here](#).

### **Addressing Reckless Driving in Super District 9:**

On a related note, throughout this year the Council has taken deliberate action to quell reckless driving events on Memphis streets. In March 2021, we approved an ordinance aimed at eliminating excessive muffler noise. In June 2021, we passed a substitute ordinance prohibiting and penalizing the organization of, and participation in, drag racing and related reckless driving exhibitions.

Informed by these ongoing efforts, *today* we approved a resolution requesting the City's Division of Engineering to conduct a comprehensive traffic study within Super District 9, specifically within the incorporated sections of Cordova.

As Super District 9 residents have reported continued sightings of speeding along streets of every size, the Council now seeks a lasting solution. The comprehensive traffic study – sought with an eye toward establishing added protections for responsible drivers and their families – will result in the

presentation of engineering proposals capable of decreasing instances of erratic driving in the years ahead.

### **Establishing a Moratorium on Tire Repair, Auto Sales, and Auto Repair Shops along Old Austin Peay Highway:**

As we look ahead and envision possibilities to come, we must continue asking ourselves which aspects of Memphis' communities require modification.

Take, for instance, the Lamar Avenue corridor, where the historic overpopulation of auto-related businesses demanded Council attention in 2018 to encourage the development of expanded, healthier offerings. Such is now the case along Old Austin Peay Highway.

This road serves as a gateway into the Raleigh community. Despite this fact, the thoroughfare's roster of commercial enterprises are indistinguishable, at best. Stretching 3,500 feet, the street is home to multiple car washes, a tire repair shop, an auto sales company, an auto repair operation, and a service station. While these are worthy enterprises, diversification is needed to ensure the artery's ability to thrive for the benefit of entrepreneurs and nearby residents alike.

To reach that end, today the Council passed a resolution establishing a 120-day moratorium on the issuance of project authorizations and application approvals related to "automotive sales, automotive repair, and tire repair shops" in the Old Austin Peay Highway area. The action also requests traffic studies for any pending applications, or City-owned property transfers, related to "automotive sales, automotive repair, and tire repair shops" in the same vicinity.

The Council believes the resolution presents an opportunity to work toward new solutions that mitigate traffic congestion, accidents, and public safety issues along the roadway, while striving to bring an enhanced reality to one of Memphis' most invaluable neighborhoods.

### **Supporting Memphis Public Libraries:**

Nonetheless, as the Council endeavors to make improvements, we must also maintain our support for entities contributing high-impact work within the City; e.g., entities like the Division of Library Services.

With literary resources for all, the Division exists as a social and educational anchor within each corner of our municipality. As such, the Council welcomes measures to further their work. Therefore, this evening we approved a

resolution accepting, allocating, and appropriating grant funds in the amount of \$1,192,500 from the State of Tennessee, Office of the Secretary of State, Tennessee State Library and Archives. The funds will be used to purchase supplies, books, and collection development materials for use by Memphians of every stripe.

### **Funding the Division of Fire Services:**

In like manner, the Council passed a resolution accepting and appropriating grant monies from the Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$3,900,000 to fund the work provided by the Division of Fire Services.

For many Memphians, the Division is their first line of defense *and* medical service. With this in mind, the dollars will be used to improve healthcare literacy, particularly among men and women who utilize the 911 EMS system as their entry point into the healthcare system. The funded amount will also be utilized to disseminate public health messages regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, as our valued Fire Services-based Public Safety officers strive to improve health outcomes in 2021 and beyond.

### **Expanding Recreational Programs within the Division of Park Services:**

Additionally, physical activity is key to ensuring healthy growth and personal development. So, the Council values opportunities to further the Division of Park Services' efforts to enrich the lives of Memphis citizens through its recreational programs.

Today, with that aim in mind, your Council passed two resolutions to expand the Division's summer camp and community center offerings.

The first measure accepted funds in the amount of \$2,750 from the Kiwanis Club. Specifically, the dollars will be used to support a special event for all summer campers, allowing City of Memphis community centers to remove any cost barriers to participation within summer camp special events.

The second action approved the allocation and appropriation of \$4,800,000 as part of the City of Memphis' Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Improvement Budget. Specifically, the monetary amount will be used to complete construction of the *new* Ed Rice Community Center at Frayser Park; ***save the date:*** the community center is tentatively planned to open in Spring 2022.

Taken together, the work will ensure that Memphians have useful and improved resources available to boost their well-being in 2021 and beyond.

### **Mask Up Memphis:**

Finally, and most importantly, I implore my fellow Memphians to do what you can to protect your family, friends, and colleagues in light of the delta variant's presence within our community. **To be clear: A facial covering is not a political statement. Rather, it is a tool in the fight to save lives.**

As of yesterday, there was an average of 349 known COVID-19 cases per day within Shelby County. By the numbers, this figure marks a 147% increase from two-weeks prior, leading to 30 new deaths, a 105% increase in hospitalizations, and 93% of intensive care rooms within our region being occupied.

With a sense of data-driven urgency in mind, *today* the Council passed a resolution requesting the Shelby County Health Department to reinstate a mask mandate. The measure also asked the City of Memphis' Administration to use their available power to bolster the Department's work to that end.

**Mask Up Memphis!** Together we can protect one another in the fight against COVID-19.

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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