



Barbara Swarengen Ware was a force for good and will be missed.

As I write the first recap for the month of October, I would be remiss if I did not pause to reflect upon the life of Councilwoman Barbara Swarengen Ware, who passed away on September 30 at the age of 82. Although she was many things to many people, those who knew her well fittingly described her in a singular manner: Genuine.

She was *genuine* in her passion for the place she called home.

She *genuinely* carried her humble beginnings as a source of pride, as well as inspiration.

She possessed a *genuine* gift for expression, which she utilized to champion the needs of the underserved, notably within her neighborhood of "Douglass, Tennessee."

Furthermore, her dependable nature was exemplified by her *genuine* commitment to living a life of service, informed by faith, and guided by humanitarian ideals.

She was calm. She was kind. And she chose to recognize the inherent strength within others.

In this manner, she was *genuinely* welcoming of all, and valued working together to keep the City of Memphis moving forward for every citizen.

For these reasons and more, she was a *genuine* asset to our community. As such, she will be missed.

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On Tuesday, the Council recognized the life and legacy of Councilwoman Barbara Swearingen Ware with a moment of silence. We also took actions that typify her dedication to the men, women, and children of our diverse municipality.

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 Park Improvements Across All Council Districts:

The Council is firm in its belief that world-class cities require first-class recreational spaces. To this point, parks possess a demonstrated record of improving quality of life for residents both young and old.

On Tuesday, with this understanding in mind, a resolution was unanimously approved allocating, appropriating, and transferring \$1,400,000 as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Improvement Budget. Specifically, the amount will fund multiple repairs and improvements at City of Memphis parks *within every Council District*, in each corner of our City.

The measure represents a decided step forward in our effort to maintain our public green spaces for use by Memphians present and future.

Supporting Memphis Public Libraries Across All Council Districts:

As we support offerings conducive to physical well-being, we must also place value on opportunities capable of ensuring citizens' educational enrichment. The City of Memphis' public libraries achieve that end each day.

So, on Tuesday, the Council was thrilled to pass a resolution accepting, allocating, and appropriating grant funds in the amount of \$33,964 for Memphis Public Libraries. The monies, received from the United Way of Greater Nashville, will be used to ensure that our local public library system remains one of the best within the state of Tennessee.

Improving Healthcare Outcomes Across All Council Districts:

As we envision an improved future for all Memphis residents, a discussion of our present healthcare landscape must occur.

Along these lines, did you know that in 2019 our nationally-recognized Memphis Fire Department determined that 35,000 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls required the “lowest need for care,” as a result of being “non-life threatening?”

Notwithstanding, traditional emergency response sends an ambulance to every 911 call, resulting in an overuse of ambulance services and creating a more-than-\$20M annual loss.

Enter the Healthcare Navigator Program, established to ensure the proper – and most efficient – response through patient-centered care. So, by redesign, rather than taking all 911-patients to the emergency room via ambulance, the Healthcare Navigator initiative enables dispatchers to determine the appropriate level of care based upon a series of questions. If an ambulance is not required, the dispatcher may then organize and deploy one of the following responses:

1. **Crisis Assessment and Response to Emergencies (CARE)**, involving multidisciplinary team responses to complex emergencies, such as suicides or mental and behavioral health crises;
2. **High Utilizer Group (HUG)**, in which Navigators work with anyone who calls 911 three times or more within a seven-day period to better understand and address the underlying issues leading to 911 usage; and
3. **Rapid Assessment, Decision, and Redirection (RADAR)**, which provides non-ambulance vehicles, evaluation by an emergency physician, limited on-site treatments, and linkage to care for non-emergent callers.

Upon review, the Council is excited to support the new model for EMS care. As such, on Tuesday, we approved a resolution to accept, allocate, and appropriate grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$327,272.73 to further the Healthcare Navigator Program within the City of Memphis.

Taken together, the effort should result in reduced emergency room visits and hospitalizations, lower medical costs for patients, and most importantly, improved overall care for the men, women, and children within our community.

Spread the Word: COVID-19 Vaccination Boosters Available:

Finally, please note that COVID-19 vaccination boosters are now available for the following Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their two-dose series at least six months ago:

1. 65 years+,
2. 18+ with underlying medical conditions,
3. 18+ who work in high-risk settings, and
4. 18+ who live in high-risk settings.

Vaccination sites are located at the following locations:

- I. 940 Early Maxwell Blvd., Memphis TN 38104

Tuesday-Friday
9am-6pm

Saturdays
9am-1pm

No appointment required.

1. 1234 Finley Road, Memphis TN 38116

Fridays
9am-6pm

Saturdays
9am-1pm

No appointment required.

*Note: For more information, visit <https://www.shelby.community/covid-19-vaccine/>

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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 to the right.

Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr.
Memphis City Council
District 2