

Good Evening and Happy Thursday, Memphis!



The month of October is always rewarding, because it offers an opportunity to advocate on behalf of a cause that is near to my heart: *Breast Cancer Awareness*.

And, although we've each heard the words "breast - cancer - awareness," more work is required to spotlight the need for increased education on the topic - ultimately for the purpose of supporting the brave persons presently and previously affected by this disease, along with those who remain at risk.

With that in mind, did you know that *1 in 8 women* within the United States will develop breast cancer during her lifetime? Furthermore, every two minutes a woman in our nation is diagnosed with the illness.

Nonetheless, progress is being made: So much so that 63 percent of cases are now diagnosed at a localized stage, meaning there is no sign that the cancer has spread outside of the breast, effectively providing the benefit of a *five-year survival rate of 99%*.

So, all things considered, what can we do to continue improving upon existing health outcomes? For starters, encourage informed and shared decision making when it comes to screening, early detection, and annual exams. This requires communicating with clinicians equipped with best evidence and patient-specific characteristics in mind. Additionally, do what you can to

support and promote organizations committed to funding research for treatment and reduced incidence rates.

One such group dedicated to fighting breast cancer within our community is the American Cancer Society (ACS). Therefore, on Tuesday ACS representatives were present within the City Hall Council Chambers as we declared October 2021 as **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** for the City of Memphis.

In doing so, the Council stands in solidarity with warriors – and survivors – everywhere, underscoring the point that their struggle is not endured alone.

For information on local resources available to individuals and families affected by breast cancer, visit the American Cancer Society's Harrah's Hope Lodge, [here](#).

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

Supporting COVID-19 Recovery Efforts via ARPA aid:

Advocating for individuals and families overcoming the challenges of breast cancer, in and of itself, represented a highlight of Tuesday's meeting – rivaled only by the Council's latest effort to support Memphis citizens, families, and businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Looking back, during my [September 14 recap](#), I updated you on a recessed meeting called to consider the Administration's proposal for the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) aid. As mentioned, the City of Memphis was fortunate, in that we received approximately \$161,061,490 in economic support, to be received in two tranches and utilized through December 2024.

To date, our City has received the first tranche of approximately \$80,530,745. The second installment will arrive next spring. However, having received these funds, a plan is required for their use. With that in mind, last month, the Council reviewed and approved the Administration's proposal for ARPA allocation ("ARPA Allocation Plan") over the next three years. In short, the approved [ARPA Allocation Plan](#) directs stimulus aid into the following areas:

1. City Operational Support Initiatives,

2. Community Health Initiatives,
3. Community Support Services,
4. Youth Services Support Initiatives,
5. Housing and Community Development Initiatives,
6. Mobile Library Community Service,
7. Animal Services Community Support Initiatives,
8. Group Violence Intervention Programming,
9. Public Safety Initiatives,
10. Community Micro-Grocery Initiatives,
11. Boys and Girls Club Community Support, and
12. **Council Initiatives**

As part of the ARPA Allocation Plan, \$20M was approved for use via “Council Initiatives” generally, with funding proposals to be submitted and considered on a continuing basis. Fast forward 35 days, and I am happy to announce that your Memphis City Council has established, by way of approval on Tuesday evening, a plan for the allocation and management of the full monetary amount.

Specifically, the plan marshals **Council Initiatives**-based ARPA stimulus aid into the following areas:

1. COVID-19 Mitigation,
2. Homelessness,
3. Youth Initiatives,
4. Blight Mitigation,
5. Solid Waste,
6. Safe and Affordable Housing, and

7. Community Development Initiatives

As proposed, the plan is informed by Council members' keen understanding of issues affecting residents across our diverse city. From housing insecurity, to the proliferation of food deserts, to the need to eliminate blight, the \$20M funded amount will be utilized in a manner that reflects our common principles, while ensuring that the once-in-a-generation stimulus aid is invested within our valued neighborhoods for the benefit of the citizens, families, and businesses that call these spaces home.

View the approved plan, [here](#).

Improving Housing Stability Amongst Housing-Insecure Memphians:

Related to the priorities outlined via the Council Initiatives above, your Memphis City Council possesses a sincere interest in addressing the urgent and complex issues affecting housing-insecure Memphians.

As such, on Tuesday a resolution was passed to appropriate funds from the HOME American Rescue Program, by way of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in the amount of \$13,545,982.

Specifically, the monies will be used to assist local individuals, families, and vulnerable populations which are homeless or at risk of homelessness, by providing housing, tenant-based rental assistance, and supportive services – to include homelessness prevention services and housing counseling – as well as non-congregate shelter options. In doing so, the Council aims to support the City of Memphis' Division of Housing and Community Development in (1) reducing homelessness, as well as the risk of homelessness, by (2) improving housing stability across our municipality.

Maintaining our System of Local Parks:

As we seek solutions for our habitational environments, your Council is also working with the City of Memphis' Division of Park Services to maintain our recreational places.

To that end, on Tuesday the Council approved three resolutions for a total of \$600,000 to be used in the upkeep of public parks across *every Council District*. Taken together, the measures work to ensure that Memphians present and future possess healthy options for their physical development.

Funding the Divisions of Fire and Police Services:

Finally, on the topic of health and well-being, safety remains a guiding factor in the decisions we make as a legislative body. Therefore, on Tuesday, with an eye toward bolstering the efforts of our City's public safety officers, a series of resolutions were passed in the total amount of \$13,420,984.20.

Specifically, the funds will provide the following impact:

Division of Fire Services

- I. \$205,000 allocated and appropriated from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation – 2021 Reducing Diesel Emissions for a Healthier Tennessee, to be used for the partial funding of the purchase of four ambulances with idle mitigation systems, and
- II. \$10,795,984.20 accepted via grant funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security over a three-year period for the 2020 SAFER grant, to be used to enhance the Division's ability to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration – with \$1,216,939 appropriated for the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget.

Division of Police Services

- I. \$420,000 accepted and appropriated via grant funds from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office through the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, to be used for overtime and supplies, and
- II. \$2,000,000 accepted and appropriated via grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice – Department of Justice Programs, to be used for overtime, temp salaries, and professional services.

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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.

Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr.
Memphis City Council
District 2