

Good Afternoon and Happy Friday, Memphis!



As we look ahead to the end of November, and ultimately to the conclusion of an historic 2021, I am proud of the progress we have achieved as a City despite challenges that arise.

Do we occasionally possess philosophical differences? *Yes.* Have instances arisen over the last eleven months that led us to encounter frustration? *Of course.*

Nonetheless, through it all, have we succumbed to the obstacles that abound? *Never.* Will we continue to champion the needs of every Memphian? *Always.* With that in mind, will we continue to overcome setbacks, ultimately growing more resilient in the process? *You better believe it!*

Memphis is unique because it possesses citizens with a diversity of talents and backgrounds. However, the connecting thread binding us all is our passion for the place we call home, and our desire to see this home thrive. Coupled with our trademark perseverance, we cannot, *and will not,* be stopped.

There are 42 days left in the calendar year, all of which encompass the holiday season. During this time, join me in renewing a pledge to personal safety and personal respect.

Remember: Our individual actions inform our collective success.

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On that note, this week, the city of Memphis lost a talented artist and community-minded citizen with the senseless killing of Adolph Robert Johnson, Jr., or to his fans around the world, Young Dolph.

We send our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Young Dolph and we thank him for his many contributions. This is a tragic reminder that gun violence is still far too prevalent in our communities and we must recommit ourselves to ending gun violence in Memphis.

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This your Memphis City Council met to discuss measures focused on moving Memphis forward. 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](#).

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Regulating Use of City of Memphis Streets and Right of Ways by Public Utilities – Including Oil and Gas Pipeline Companies:

[In my September 21 recap](#), I emphasized that your Memphis City Council is dedicated to keeping our natural landscape safe for Memphians present and future. As such, that same day, this legislative body passed an ordinance on third and final reading to amend the Unified Development Code to create Well Head Overlay Protection Districts within the City of Memphis. The decision, reached after considerable discussion over nine months, was devised to protect the quantity and quality of our municipality's public water supply from land uses at or near City wells, within the Well Head Protection Areas. In doing so, the effort defends against pollutants, waste materials, hazardous and contaminant substances.

Nonetheless, more work remains on this all-important topic.

Enter: Substitute Ordinance No. 5807, passed Tuesday on third and final reading.

Upon review, as the September 21 action protects our most precious natural resource at well-based locations, this week's measure provides added safeguards where streets and right-of-ways are concerned by establishing

uniform provisions to specify conditions and requirements for use by public and private utilities, notably including oil and gas pipeline companies.

Altogether, the Council views this development as both positive and necessary as we endeavor to secure healthy outcomes for all Memphians, present and future.

See Ordinance No. 5807, [here](#).

Receiving an Overview of Residential Code Enforcement Activities:

Along these same lines, the Council values the role of key City services in the effort to enhance your quality of life. One such department utilized in reaching that all-important end is the City of Memphis' Division of Public Works, Office of Neighborhood Improvement, which oversees residential code enforcement.

On Tuesday, Public Works Director Robert Knecht attended the [afternoon Public Works, Solid Waste, and General Services Committee](#) to provide an overview of the department's residential code enforcement activities.

You may be familiar with the Office of Neighborhood Improvement, as it is tasked with the enforcement of our Code of Ordinances related to the maintenance and condition of residential properties. *However, are you aware of the full scope of their coverage area?*

For instance, within the Bluff City, alone, there are approximately 186,400 residential parcels over 325 square miles, all of which residential code enforcement oversees. Of that number, nearly 179,100 parcels contain occupied residential properties, while nearly 7,300 parcels possess vacant residential structures.

And, with a staff of 56, working two shifts, coupled with 17 special operations/support/management personnel, the organization is both lean and relentlessly dedicated to operating on your behalf.

Notably, Director Knecht highlighted that the City's top ten residential code violations are as follows:

1. Accumulation of junk, trash, and debris,
2. Open storage of materials and furnishing (appliances and indoor furniture set outside),
3. Parking and storing inoperable vehicles,
4. High weeds and grass,
5. Off-street parking (or parking on grass),

6. Substandard and structurally compromised structures,
7. Special use and RV parking,
8. Commercial vehicles parked on residential property,
9. Unsecured structures (open to casual entry), and
10. Service and repair shops operating on residential properties; closely followed by commercial vehicles parked on the street

As we support the Office of Neighborhood Improvement in our shared mission to bolster the health, safety, welfare, and quality of our community, take a moment to view their November 16 presentation, [here](#), so that you are apprised of their endeavors.

Furthermore, if you are aware of an existing residential code violation, call 3-1-1, today. Together we can keep Memphis clean!

Improving Memphis' Parks System:

On a related note, as we promote methods aimed at protecting our lived environment, the Council finds benefit in improving our recreational spaces for long-term personal and physical enrichment.

In doing so, on Tuesday we unanimously approved a series of resolutions in the total funded amount of \$577,500 to be utilized in the effort to improve, staff, and equip the City's Division of Parks and Neighborhoods, as the department works toward its ongoing goal to extend opportunities for personal and physical enrichment to Memphians of every stripe.

Taken together, the Council views this development as both positive and necessary as we strive to secure healthy outcomes for all Memphians.

Funding Memphis' Public Libraries:

By the same token, as we push to improve citizens' well-being, personal enrichment must be given due attention. Therefore, on Tuesday the Council passed two resolutions in the total funded amount of \$320,880, all focused upon funding Memphis Public Libraries.

By the numbers, the dollars will be utilized in the following manner:

- I. \$210,000 accepted, allocated, and appropriated via funds from the Universal Service Administrative Company Federal Communications Commission, to be used for the purchase of technology equipment, followed by

- II. \$110,880 accepted, allocated, and appropriated via funds from the Memphis Library Foundation, to be used to secure bilingual services

On the whole, the measures further fulfill the Council and Administration's effort to fund our City's national award winning public library system.

Selection of the 2022 Memphis City Council Chair:

Finally, as is tradition each year, the Council selected its Chairperson for the upcoming year. With thirteen members, seven single districts, and two super districts representing over 651,000 residents, the role of Council Chair is of utmost importance.

On Tuesday, Councilwoman Jamita Swearengen was selected as the 2022 Memphis City Council Chairwoman. Councilwoman Swearengen has served the City of Memphis as the Council Vice Chairwoman and representative for District 4.

Please join me in congratulating Chairwoman-Elect Swearengen on her selection and honor!

Selection of the 2022 Memphis City Council Vice Chair:

As is also tradition, on Tuesday, the position of Vice Chairperson was selected for the upcoming year.

Councilman Martavius Jones was selected as the 2022 Memphis City Council Vice Chairman. Councilman Jones has served the City of Memphis as the Transportation Committee Chair, and representative for Super District 8, Position 3.

Please join me in congratulating Vice Chairman-Elect Jones on his selection and honor!

I look forward to the continued progress that will be achieved by the Council on behalf of every Memphian in 2022 under Chairwoman-Elect Swearengen and Vice Chairman-Elect Jones' leadership.

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Looking Forward:

As always, 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