

Good Evening and Happy Holidays Memphis!



Please note the Memphis City Council office will be closed from Thursday December 23rd at 11:00am through Monday December 27th and again on Friday December 31st for the upcoming holidays.

This Chairman's Recap is one of great significance to me as I send it out for the final time of my term. It has been a tremendous honor to serve as Chairman and I am grateful to have been afforded the opportunity. Being a leader can be challenging, particularly in unsteady times like these. However, I am so proud of the work this office has done to provide and advocate for the citizens of Memphis.

In 2021 the City Council approved historic investments in the City including the \$200 million Accelerate Memphis plan, \$20 million in Council Initiatives of American Rescue Plan funds, and breaking ground on dozens of construction and renovation projects throughout Memphis. The future for this great city has never seemed brighter. I am moved to have played a role in this city's success and cannot wait to see the new heights we reach in 2022.

Increasing Funding for Home Weatherization and Repairs

Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division Director Ashley Cash gave an update to the Council about the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to help Memphians with home weatherization and repair projects. In September, the City Council voted to increase the total allocation from \$1 to \$5 million for the Home Repair Grant Program.

The Home Repair Grant Program provides grants to City of Memphis homeowners ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to complete home repairs and resolve health and safety issues such as:

- o Select plumbing repairs
- o HVAC repair or replacement

- o Faulty electrical wiring
- o Roof repair or replacement
- o Broken or leaking windows or screens
- o Accessibility challenges
- o Exterior paint deterioration
- o Dangerous or rotting railings, stairs, landings or porches
- o Rotting interior flooring

The city-wide program is anticipated to launch in January 2022 and will be administered by City partners Habitat for Humanity, Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Memphis Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Applicants will need to show documentation that they experienced a hardship related to COVID-19 such as job loss, wage reduction, illness, or childcare challenges.

The Memphis City Council established blight reduction, safe and affordable housing, and community development as priorities and we are excited about the impact this grant will have for homeowners in Memphis. Additionally, the Council is supportive of programs that invest in and support those who have made Memphis home. We are appreciative of Director Cash and the Housing and Community Development Departments commitment and diligent work on this project.

For updates on the Home Repair Grant Program, including anticipated launch date and how to apply, please visit the Housing of Community Development [website](#).

Landmarks Study

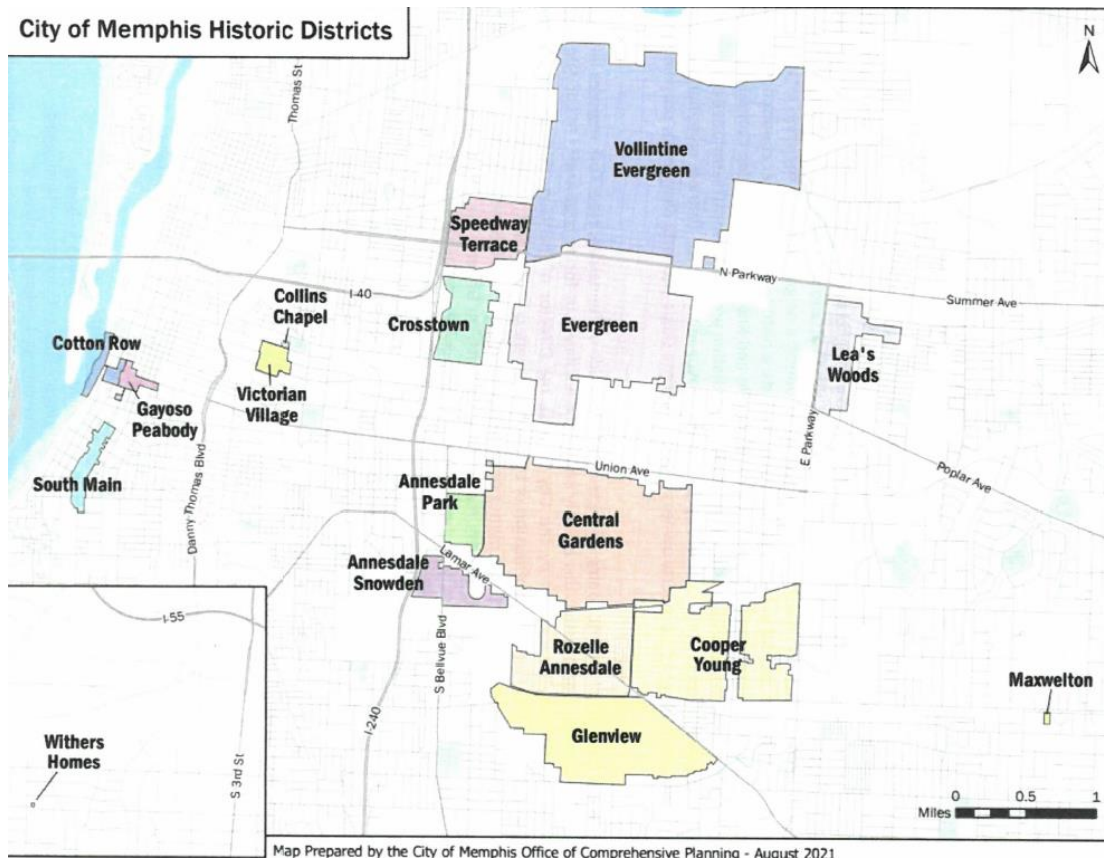
Landmarks, or historic, districts must be approved by the Memphis City Council. Once established, property owners in a historic district seeking a building permit for exterior alterations must submit a Certificate of Appropriateness to the Memphis Landmarks Commission; each historic district has their own specific design guidelines that must be followed. At present, there are eighteen local historic districts. In August, the Memphis City Council approved a resolution requesting the Division of Planning and Development to perform a review of the City's Landmarks Districts and report to the Council before the end of the year.

Outgoing and sure to be missed Zoning Administrator Josh Whitehead gave a presentation to the Council outlining metrics of landmarks districts.

1. **Current and historic assessed value:** the median appraised value for single-family homes in each landmarks district that has been in existence since 2010 has increased in value. On average, homes in all landmarks districts rose 59% in value from 2010 to 2021 compared with 18% for the City overall.

2. **Demographics of Landmarks Districts:** About 27,000 residents live in these districts. Four are predominantly African-American, six are predominantly non-Hispanic white, and one (Crosstown) has no predominant racial group. Median income for residents of landmarks districts increased 27% while the median income increased 13% citywide.
3. **Value of Residential Building Permits:** When filing for a building permit, homeowners are required to estimate the value of the project, making the value of building permits measurable. Residential building permits increased by 91% citywide and grew by 232% in landmarks districts.
4. **Homeownership Rates:** 66% of the single-family homes in Memphis are owner-occupied and 70% single-family homes in landmarks districts are owner-occupied. Districts both increased and decreased homeownership rates.
5. **Creating Landmarks Districts:** Memphis follows a similar procedure to designating landmarks districts as nearby Tennessee cities and other large Metropolitan cities. There is typically a campaign by residents to form a landmarks district and it must be approved by the legislative body.

It is always the Council's number one priority to make the best decisions for the citizens of Memphis. In order to do so, it is important we take the opportunity to examine the data and hear from division leaders. Moving forward, the Council will have important data and perspective when considering other landmarks district requests.



Funding for the Police Department

On Tuesday, the Council passed four resolutions to fund much needed Memphis Police Department projects that will give our officers the necessary tools to effectively and efficiently perform their duties and keep Memphians safe.

- \$500,000 will for the construction of the New Mount Moriah Police Station in Whitehaven.
- \$382,500 for the renovation of the Police Services Violent Crimes Unit.
- \$900,000 for the purchasing of In-Car Video technology.
- \$330,060 for Police Service Radio Maintenance Rehab Project.

All funds have been allocated to buildings or technology that are in disarray and have long needed funding to be brought up to date.



Transferring ownership of the Orpheum to the Orpheum Theatre Group

The devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on indoor recreation harmed many cultural institutions in the city of Memphis, such as the Orpheum Theatre. A shining beacon right off Beale Street in the heart of downtown Memphis, the Orpheum Theatre brings Memphians together to enjoy music, plays, comedy,

dance, and much more.

It is a responsibility of city leadership to guard our cultural institutions that allow citizens to gather together and feel the joy of community. Therefore, I brought forth a resolution to transfer ownership of the Orpheum Theatre from the City of Memphis to the Orpheum Theatre Group.

By transferring ownership back to the Orpheum Theatre Group, they are now eligible for critical grant funding that will help keep the Orpheum open and thriving for generations to come.

If the property should ever stop being used primarily for the operation of a theatre, full ownership will return to the City of Memphis. Additionally, in the event of bankruptcy, voluntarily or involuntarily, ownership will return to the City of Memphis. I am proud to have sponsored this resolution and am looking forward to visiting the Orpheum with friends and family for years to come.

2022 Meeting Dates & Passing the Gavel



The Council passed our final ordinance of the year to establish the meeting dates for 2022. For a full list of the meeting dates please visit [this link](#). Our first meeting of 2022 will be Tuesday, January 4th.

As the sun sets on my term as Chairman, the sun rises for Councilwoman Jamita Swearingen who begins her term as Chair of the Memphis City Council on January 1, 2022. Jamita is a good friend and respected leader who has the full support and blessings of the Council as she begins her term. Please join me in congratulating and wishing her well.

In Closing:

Again, it has been the professional and personal honor of my life to serve as Chairman of the Memphis City Council. I want to thank my family, friends, fellow Councilmembers, and the Council and City Hall staff who make it all happen. And a special thank you to the people of Memphis, who have attended meetings, watched us online, called the office or sent an email. Thriving communities depend on engaged citizens who take action in their neighborhoods. Your hard work and efforts improve our city every day and I thank you for your service.

Yours in service,



Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr.
Memphis City Council
District 2