

Chairwoman's Recap

Happy New Year, Memphis! It is with much gratitude and honor that I write my first Chair's Recap of 2022. As your 2022 Chairwoman for the Memphis City Council, my objective is to further advance the mission of the Council, while continuing to prioritize the voice of all Memphians. I am honored to have Councilman Martavius Jones as Vice Chairman.



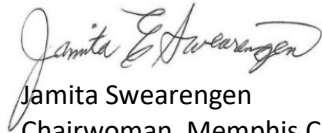
Your Memphis City Council met on Tuesday, January 4 to discuss actions toward improving the City of Memphis, including in the areas of safety and public works. On the topic of safety, we approved a **resolution accepting grant funds in the amount of \$5,000 from BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust for water safety instruction**. We also approved a **resolution accepting an in-kind donation in the equivalent of \$5,300 of aquatics water safety supplies** from LeBonheur Children's Hospital.

At the meeting, the Council was slated to take up a **Referendum Ordinance to allow specified personnel employed with the divisions of Police and Fire Services to reside within 50 miles from the city of Memphis**. However, as the State currently is considering legislation regarding municipalities' **authority on residency requirements, this item was held until April 5**. At the State, the bill cleared the Senate last year, meaning it just needs to advance out of the House during this upcoming legislative session before it can be reviewed by Gov. Bill Lee. This legislation greatly impacts the Council's Referendum Ordinance.

Also, at the meeting, I was pleased to announce the two newest staff members to the Council: **Mr. Brian Bacchus, our new Chief of Staff**, comes to us from the Division of Planning and Development with over 35 years of experience in the sector; and **Nicholas Thompson, our newest Legislative Research Analyst**, comes from the Division of Housing and Community Development with a wealth of experience in government relations and research.

If you were not able to participate in the meeting, you may view the recording on [YouTube](#) or at <https://www.memphistn.gov/government/watch-public-meetings-online/>. I look forward to serving as Chairwoman of your Memphis City Council.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jamita E. Swearingen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jamita Swearingen
Chairwoman, Memphis City Council
District 4