



## Board of Director's Meeting Report

July 24, 2020

WebEx Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

The Crime Commission Board of Directors meeting was called to order by board of directors' chairman Ben Adams. The January 23, 2020 and March 4, 2020 board reports were approved.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF SECOND QUARTER OUTCOME INDICATORS**

Bill Gibbons reported on major violent crime in Memphis and Shelby County (January – June 2020). Mr. Gibbons indicated that there was an increase in reported murders (30%) and reported aggravated assaults (15%) in the city of Memphis from 2019. Shelby County had an increase of reported murders (26%) and reported aggravated assaults (15%). Major property crime, domestic violence, and overall crime showed a decline. Mr. Gibbons also noted that the figures for domestic violence show a decrease of 8% for both the city of Memphis and Shelby County. However, Mr. Gibbons believes that the figures may be misleading and that incidents are under-reported due to the pandemic.

### **DISCUSSION ON SPECIFIC SAFE COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES**

#### **Objective: Hire and retain more law enforcement personnel.**

Mayor Jim Strickland spoke on Memphis Police Department (MPD) staffing. He indicated that an in-depth report is being prepared by Richard Janikowski, and although not completed, Mr. Janikowski affirmed that Memphis should have a complement of 2,800 police officers. This number is based geographically on officers per square mile, Memphis' high poverty rate and Memphis' comparison to cities of its size.

Bill Gibbons stated that the City of Memphis charter requires newly hired Memphis police officers to reside in Shelby County. He also stated that residency requirement limits the number of minority applicants due to a smaller pool of qualified applicants.

If the City Council keeps the referendum on residency for police and firefighters on the November ballot, the board will establish a position at the next board meeting.

#### **Objective: Enhance law enforcement training.**

Bill Gibbons presented the responses from MPD and Shelby County Sheriff Department regarding a measurement of twenty policies. These can now be shown on the Crime Commission website.

**Objective: Initiate a focused deterrence model.**

District Attorney Weirich stated that she and Judge Michael are working to place juvenile offenders in a focused deterrence model. Currently, juveniles leaving Wilder get involved with their prior communities in crime. The goal will be to inform MPD and Shelby County Sheriff Office (SCSO) of their release and actively involve Judge Michael.

Judge Dan Michael indicated that the pandemic has completely shut down or limited the use of the court rooms for the rest of the year. Currently, dockets are presented by Zoom.

David Dart suggested that employment opportunities are available for those available for re-entry. District Attorney Weirich suggested Harold Collins and Dr. K. B. Turner as a resource for applicants.

**Objective: Reduce gun crimes.**

Bill Gibbons stated that 40/50 of the Crime Commission board participated in the vote (in March) to oppose pending legislation to carry a handgun without a permit in public. Legislation was not enacted this year, and Mr. Gibbons encouraged the board to stay vigilant because this will come to the forefront again.

Mr. Gibbons stated that Stevie Moore would like the Crime Commission to participate in a walk against gun violence this fall. Those board members willing to participate will organize as a small working group to support this issue.

Mr. Gibbons also stated that the FED UP campaign was successful in helping reduce gun crimes along with aggressive prosecution and targeted data driven policing. However, due to funding issues, the FED UP campaign is not active.

**FINANCIALS**

The financials were presented by Johnny Moore. The Crime Commission's fiscal year ends September 30, 2020. Mr. Moore stated that current assets are \$1,784,466.81; current liabilities are \$35,208.13; total liabilities and net assets are \$2,097,435.40.

Bill Gibbons stated the bottom line on finances: for the remainder of this fiscal year, operating funds of \$230,000 are required.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

An online auction was discussed as a way to raise funds for the Crime Commission. However, only two (2) items have been pledged. Any board members who are willing to donate items of value, such as vacation homes, big ticket items, etc. please contact the Crime Commission.

### **Audit:**

No findings were found.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Presented by:**  
**Sharon (Sam) Walker**  
**Executive Assistant**



**Memphis Shelby Crime Commission Board Meeting  
July 24, 2020**

**Attendance:**

1. Blair Taylor
2. Floyd Bonner
3. Amy Weirich
4. Ben Adams
5. Dr. K. B. Turner
6. Dave Carlson
7. Craig Weiss
8. Thomas Campbell
9. John Dudas
10. Coleman Thompson
11. Mike Dunavant
12. Jeff Cox
13. Dan Weddle
14. Jeffrey Higgs
15. Melanie Blakeney
16. Jim Strickland
17. Paul Morris
18. Vinessa Brown
19. Michael Rallings
20. David Dart
21. Rob DelPriore
22. Carol Ross-Spang
23. Lee Harris
24. Stevie Moore
25. Jamita Swearengen
26. Dan Michael
27. Dorcas Young Griffin
28. Henry Hooper
29. Johnny Moore

30. Terry Harris

Additional Attendees

31. Artemis Williams

32. Linda Russell

33. Bill Gibbons

34. Don Crowe

35. Ike Griffith

36. Leon Gray

37. Angela Madden

38. Karen Bartlett

39. Sharon Walker

40. Janine Heiner