



**Board of Director's Meeting Report  
January 28, 2021  
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 October 22, 2020 board report was approved.

**APPROVAL OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

New board members presented:

- Dr. Jeff Warren, Memphis City Council member
- Sgt. Essica Cage-Rosario, Memphis Police Association representative

The above candidates were presented; a motion was made, seconded, and approved to admit these members to the Crime Commission board.

**DISCUSSION ON SPECIFIC SAFE COMMUNITY PLAN OBJECTIVES**

**OBJECTIVE:** Hire and retain more law enforcement personnel.

Bill Gibbons presented a proposed statement from the Board regarding its stance on the current residency requirements for first responders. The proposed statement from the Board supports passage of SB 29/HB 105, which eliminates residency requirements for first responders as a condition of employment. Once the proposed statement was submitted to the board for review, various board members expressed their feelings. Mr. Gibbons also presented residency requirements in other comparable cities, such as Detroit and Nashville which do not have residency requirements similar to Memphis. Mr. Gibbons further stated that the City Council was not in favor of eliminating the residency requirement for Memphis police officers. Various points of view were presented by Board members:

- Some Board members did not want to oppose the position of the City Council.
- Some noted that the Memphis City Council has set a goal of 2,500 police officers for the city of Memphis; the current approach is not sufficient to meet the goal.
- Director Rallings stated that 42% of current MPD officers do not live in Memphis.

Upon further discussion, Chairman Adams yielded the floor to a vote on the acceptance of the proposed statement by the board as written or with modifications. The final vote was to accept the proposed statement without the sunset provision (*A sunset provision or sunset clause is a measure within a statute, regulation or other law that provides that the law shall cease to have effect after a specific date, unless further legislative action is taken to extend the law.*)

The motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the proposed statement on residency requirements with the exclusion of the sunset provision.

**OBJECTIVE:** Focused Deterrence Initiative

General Amy Weirich discussed the status of the Focused Deterrence Initiative. Gen. Weirich stated that beginning in February a series of three call-ins (due to COVID-19) would take place for chronic offenders (some being gang members). This program is not optional but required as part of probation or parole to support the necessary behavioral changes.

Assistance will be offered to those who need help in reacclimating to society and are willing to accept assistance. Overall, General Weirich stated that less crime equals less victims and safer streets, which is the goal.

**OBJECTIVE:** Reduce gun violence

Bill Gibbons reported on major violent crime in Memphis and Shelby County (January – December 2020). Major violent crime in the City of Memphis showed an increase (24.3%) from 2019 and major violent crime in Shelby County showed an increase (23.1%) from 2019. Major property crime and overall crime showed a decline in the City of Memphis and Shelby County.

Bill Gibbons, Mike Shearin, Amy Weirich, Mike Rallings, Larry Jensen, Floyd Bonner and Jim Strickland met with Governor Lee (some in person, some via phone) to discuss Memphis crime stats and the rise in gun crime in Memphis, stronger sentencing for certain gun crimes, and concern over permit-less handgun carry legislation.

Mr. Gibbons announced the next “Unity Walk Against Gun Violence” which will take place Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. beginning and ending at Hillcrest High School. The walk encourages neighborhood participation and brings to the forefront the need to reduce gun crimes.

## **FINANCIALS**

Bill Gibbons provided the November 2020 financial statement along with the Crime Commission's current financial standing. Mr. Gibbons stated that \$283,200 is budgeted for the first four months of 2021. He stated that cash currently on hand for operations was \$264,000.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned...

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

**Memphis Shelby Crime Commission Board Meeting**  
**January 28, 2021**

### **Attendance:**

1. Ben Adams
2. Pierce Ledbetter
3. Floyd Bonner
4. Louis "Bo" Allen
5. John Deberry
6. Blair Taylor
7. Michael Rallings
8. David Dart
9. Henry Hooper
10. James E. Kirkwood
11. Stevie Moore
12. Mike Palazzolo
13. David Slott
14. Tom Cleves
15. Thomas Campbell
16. Craig Weiss
17. Dorcas Young-Griffin

18. Amber Mills
19. Jim Strickland
20. Melanie Blakeney
21. John Dudas
22. Vinessa Brown
23. Amy Weirich
24. Jeffrey Higgs
25. Greg Duckett
26. John Campbell
27. Paul Morris
28. Dave Carlson
29. K. B. Turner
30. Dan Michael
31. Coleman Thompson
32. John Covington
33. Essica Cage-Rosario
34. Doug Korneski
35. Jeff Warren

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

1. Janine Heiner
2. Artemis Williams
3. Max Helms
4. Angela Madden
5. Linda Russell
6. Jeff Cox
7. Heidi Kuhn
8. Bill Gibbons