



**Board of Director's Meeting Report
October 26, 2021
WebEx, 3:30 p.m.**

The Crime Commission Board of Directors meeting was called to order by board of directors' chairman Ben Adams. The July 22nd board report was approved.

APPROVAL OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New board members presented:

- Joe Saab, Vice President, International Paper
- April Buckner, TN Department of Correction

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

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS FOR FY 2021-2022

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS FOR FY 21-22

- Ben Adams
- Vinessa Brown
- Louis "Bo" Allen
- Joe Saab
- John Dudas
- Terry Harris
- Jeffrey Higgs
- Johnny Moore
- David Slott
- Blair Taylor
- Amy Weirich

OFFICERS

- Board Chair – Ben Adams
- President – Bill Gibbons

- Secretary – Vinessa Brown
- Treasurer - Louis “Bo” Allen

The above candidates were presented; a motion was made, seconded, and approved to elect the executive committee and officers.

THIRD QUARTER OUTCOME INDICATORS AND 2020 FBI UCR REPORT

Bill Gibbons stated the number of reported violent incidents involving guns in Memphis January – September increased 9.6% compared to 2020. He also stated that there has been a significant increase from January – September in guns stolen from motor vehicles-with 1,381 reported. Calls for service for shots fired and shootings with persons hit in the City of Memphis, January – September, also increased.

Bill Gibbons also presented the current staffing projections for the Memphis Police Department and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office. 2,500 MPD officers are needed; 2, 126 are currently budgeted and 1,995 officers were available at the end of September 2021. The Shelby County Sheriff's Office has the same staffing struggles, with 70 deputy sheriff vacancies and 280 correctional deputy vacancies.

With the high level of repeat juvenile offenders, Mr. Gibbons stated a strong argument for expediting the youth assessment center.

REPORT ON ANNUAL CRIME COMMISSION PROFESSIONAL POLL

Deidre Malone presented the results of the Public Opinion Strategies survey. The survey was conducted September 18-22, 2021.

Key Findings from the survey of 425 registered voters in Shelby County:

- After the COVID-19 pandemic, crime and public safety top the list of issues of concern to people, followed by education and jobs. In the category of crime and public safety, gun violence is overwhelmingly the number one concern followed by human trafficking and juvenile crime.
- Voters continue to feel safe in their neighborhoods.
- Most voters believe crime victims do not receive sufficient support and assistance.
- Local police receive an overall positive performance review from voters.
- The police lost ground on “protecting people from violent crime.”
- Voters support hiring more police officers and loosening the residency requirement.

Ms. Malone reiterated that voters continue to strongly endorse the hiring of more police officers and support changing residency policies to facilitate the hiring of new police officers and firefighters.

OBJECTIVE: SAFEWAYS

John Dudas indicated that SafeWays' leadership is changing. Janine Heiner, executive director, will no longer lead the helm. Mr. Dudas indicated that under her leadership, SafeWays accomplished a 30% decrease in major crime in SafeWays certified properties since 2015. SafeWays' certified properties has 17 certified properties, resulting in safer apartment living in the city of Memphis. Joe Gurley will be acting as interim director during the transition period.

OBJECTIVE: FOCUSED DETERRENCE

District Attorney Amy Weirich presented an update on the focused deterrence initiative. D.A. Weirich indicated that the call-ins are effective and provide swift and certain responses immediately rather than later. The focused deterrence initiative also provides services to those who participate in the program. She also indicated that more resources are needed, especially in the areas of mental health, housing, and transportation.

OBJECTIVE: GROUP VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

Mayor Strickland indicated that Memphis is one of 15 cities identified by President Biden to focus resources on gun violence (noting Chief Davis' visit to the White House). The efforts include:

- 901 Block Squad (increased numbers from 13 to 25 interveners to stop retaliatory violence)
- Hospitals – (working with victims of violent crimes to intervene and head off future crimes)
- Groups in the community

Chief C. J. Davis further stressed that the Memphis Police Department is working with the group intervention program on prevention, intervention (boots on the ground- MPD provides real time information for group violence interveners), community mobilization (addresses the root causes of crime), and suppression (focused deterrence and MPD focus).

OBJECTIVE: YOUTH ASSESSMENT CENTER

Dorcas Young-Griffin provided the status of the youth assessment center. Ms. Griffin emphasized that the assessment center has been designed to accept low level crimes committed by youths, not crimes that involve guns. She also emphasized that the goal of the assessment center is for

intervention and the diversion of youth from the juvenile court system. Furthermore, she indicated the assessment center will benefit youth and their entire families. The youth assessment center is scheduled to open soon in Raleigh.

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SAFE COMMUNITY PLAN

Bill Gibbons indicated that eight community meetings have been held and have successfully gathered input for the new Safe Community Plan. The consensus from the Domestic Violence (DV) Forum indicated that there is a need for more:

- Collaboration among DV service providers and
- More DV housing

FINANCIALS/BUDGET FOR FY21-22

Bill Gibbons presented the current financials indicating stability. Mr. Gibbons indicated that the golf tournament held in September was successful. The gross was \$64,700 with expenses \$19,000, producing a net of approximately \$45,000, with the majority produced by the tournament considered new money. Ben Adams indicated that the initial golf tournament was successful and can prove to be more successful in broadening the financial base.

Bill Gibbons indicated that the Crime Commission has a new bank account established for the 901WRAP program (over \$160,000). General Weirich indicated that these funds should help victims who testify in court be safe.

Bill Gibbons presented the budget. *After the budget was presented, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the budget*

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned...

Presented by:
Sharon (Sam) Walker
Executive Assistant

**Memphis Shelby Crime Commission Board Meeting
October 26, 2021**

Attendance:

1. Ben Adams
2. April Buckner
3. Jeff Warren
4. Joe Murphy
5. John Covington
6. Dave Carlson
7. Mike Palazzolo
8. Dan Michael
9. Jim Strickland
10. Amy Weirich
11. Floyd Bonner
12. John Dudas
13. James Kirkwood
14. Blair Taylor
15. John Deberry
16. David Rausch
17. Dorcas Young-Griffin
18. Doug Korneski
19. Gerald Darling
20. Lee Harris
21. Coleman Thompson
22. Rob DelPriore
23. Vinessa Brown
24. Joseph Saab
25. C. J. Davis

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

1. Joe Gurley
2. Kimberly Conley
3. Lee Ester Redmond
4. Cheri Green
5. Joe Murphy
6. Ethele Hilliard
7. Angela Madden
8. Robert Hyde

- 9.** Susan Deason
- 10.** Linda Russell
- 11.** Bill Gibbons
- 12.** Stephen Chandler
- 13.** Shawn Jones
- 14.** Jeff Cox
- 15.** Don Crowe