



600 Jefferson; conference room #2

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
JANUARY 26, 2023

The Crime Commission Board of Directors meeting was called to order by the chair, Ben Adams. The October 27, 2022 board report was approved.

APPROVAL OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

U.S. Attorney Kevin Ritz, Memphis City Councilman Frank Colvett, and Tom Cleves of Sylvamo were presented as board replacements recommended by the executive committee. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the aforementioned as new board members.

TYRE NICHOLS INCIDENT

President Bill Gibbons noted the recent death of Tyre Nichols and actions taken against several Memphis Police Department (MPD) officers involved. He commended Mayor Strickland and MPD Chief Davis for taking prompt action in firing certain officers, suspending operations by the special unit to which they were assigned, and ordering a review of special street-level enforcement units and the hiring process and standards.

Mr. Gibbons stated further that there were both state and federal matters underway regarding the death of Mr. Nichols and that all in the community should show patience as these processes proceed.

Mr. Gibbons noted further that the vast majority of law enforcement officers with whom he has been in contact are disappointed, saddened, and embarrassed by the actions of the officers involved and that he hopes there is a way to turn this incident into a means of recruiting new officers we need who have the desire to be good public servants.

Several board members expressed the need to address what they believe to be underlying problems within MPD to insure such behavior is not reoccurring.

MPD Assistant Chief Shawn Jones noted that MPD is now taking the lead in the hiring process and that each application is being carefully reviewed before an applicant is admitted to the training academy.

COMMUNITY FORUM ON JUVENILE CRIME

Mr. Gibbons noted the strong turnout for the Crime Commission community forum on juvenile crime on January 7, at which over 400 people had signed in. He thanked Judge Sugarmon, Chief Davis, and Susan Deason for their participation as panelists.

REPORT ON KEY SAFE COMMUNITY PLAN OUTCOMES/ACTION STEP INDICATORS

Mr. Gibbons noted the decline in reported major violent crime in 2022, driven in particular by a decline in reported aggravated assaults, and the alarming increase in reported major property crime, caused primarily by a spike in motor vehicle thefts.

Sheriff Floyd Bonner and MPD Assistant Chief Shawn Jones reported on the status of efforts to recruit and retain officers (Action Step 10). Sheriff Bonner noted in particular the dire need for more correctional deputies. Mr. Gibbons mentioned that the Crime Commission, City of Memphis HR, and the Memphis Police Association had been working with the Memphis Shelby County Schools on ways to interest more middle and high school students in a career in law enforcement. He noted that the school system seemed receptive to exposing students to law enforcement careers through its career classes in all 37 middle schools and creating a public safety program at the Trezevant Career and Technology Center. He commended Sheriff Bonner for involving citizens in the hiring process and expressed hope that MPD would consider doing so as well.

Dorcas Young-Griffin reported on plans to get Action Step 18 underway which deals with mental/behavioral health issues for those in the jail, beginning with pre-arrest through post-release. She noted this was the first time a Safe Community Plan had addressed this need. She noted that the plan was to narrow the focus on those involved in pre and post-release from Shelby County correctional facilities, beginning with mapping out the process. She indicated that the Shelby County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee will be taking the lead.

PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY AGENDA

Mr. Gibbons outlined parts of the proposed state legislative and policy agenda recommended by the executive committee:

TBI forensic testing: On a voice vote, the board unanimously approved supporting additional funding of \$43.5 million for the TBI in the budget for FY 2023-2024, including significant increases in funding for forensic testing.

A well-resourced residential juvenile facility: The board approved supporting construction and adequate staffing of a new secure residential facility for serious juvenile offenders in either Shelby or Fayette County to replace the current outdated Wilder Development Center. Judge Sugarman, John DeBerry, and Coleman Thompson abstained from the vote.

Intensive supervision and appropriate treatment for serious juvenile offenders: The board approved support for state funding of a system of intensive supervision and appropriate treatment for serious juvenile offenders who are in the community rather than in a secure facility. Judge Sugarmon, John DeBerry, and Coleman Thompson abstained.

Mr. Gibbons indicated he would communicate the board's positions to appropriate state officials.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ben Adams noted briefly that the Crime Commission was in good financial shape for the time being, with over \$600,000 available for operations.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned

IN ATTENDANCE

Ben Adams
Jim Baker
Floyd Bonner
Vinessa Brown
Essica Cage
Horace Carter
Jeff Cox
Susan Deason
John DeBerry
Edward Dobbs
Gregg Duckett
John Dudas
John Gillespie
Lee Harris
Jeffrey Higgs
Henry Hooper
James Kirkwood
Stevie Moore
Paul Morris
Mike Palazzolo
Stacey Sherley-Muhammad
Tarik Sugarmon
Blair Taylor
Coleman Thompson
Dorcas Young Griffin

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Amai Iratzoqui
Bryan McCloskey
Mike Fisher
Joe Oakley
Ethele Hilliard
Joe Gurley
Norman Blake
Gregory Sanders (for Carolyn Jackson)
Shawn Jones (for C. J. Davis)
Stephanie Hill

Presented by:
Bill Gibbons, President