



Board of Directors Meeting Report (Special Report)

January 25, 2024

600 Jefferson; Conference room #2

Board of Directors chair Ben Adams called the January board meeting to order. The October 26<sup>th</sup> and the December 5<sup>th</sup> board reports were approved.

### **PROPOSED NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Ben Adams introduced the following candidates for consideration to join the Crime Commission board. The vote was presented.

- Memphis Mayor Paul Young
- Memphis Police Association President Matt Cunningham
- Memphis Councilwoman Janika White

*The motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the aforementioned candidates as new Crime Commission board members.*

### **REMARKS BY MAYOR YOUNG**

Mayor Paul Young shared his thoughts on increasing the energy in the community to reduce crime. Mayor Young stated more collaboration and communication are needed to share collective efforts with the community.

M.P.D. Chief C. J. Davis also spoke on the efforts being made by the Memphis Police Department (MPD). Chief Davis stated that MPD created a repeat offender dashboard to guide focused law enforcement operations targeting repeat offenders. She stated that, currently, each precinct is moving positively in the

right direction on crime reduction. Chief Davis also commended District Attorney Mulroy on his efforts to complement MPD's efforts on violent crime.

District Attorney Mulroy indicated that his office was addressing the court backlog. General Mulroy stated that his office identified eleven offenses that warrant special priority. He stated that public safety would be considered when addressing bail. He also stated his office would be getting away from long probation periods and would focus more on rehabilitative steps.

### **REPORT ON SELECTIVE KEY PLAN OUTCOMES, ACTION STEPS, AND MILESTONES**

Bill Gibbons stated that all stakeholders in the plan weren't able to submit their results due to data and other issues. Mr. Gibbons presented the following crime stats for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (Oct. – Dec.) 2023 based on preliminary TBI figures. Major property crime in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in the city of Memphis decreased 10.4% as compared to 2022 and major violent crime increased 5.8%.

Mr. Gibbons stated that the decrease in property crime was attributable primarily to a significant decrease in vehicle thefts of 16.4%, aided by the efforts of MPD to establish an auto theft task force, distribute free steering wheel locks, and focus more on commercial areas.

Chief Davis indicated the Memphis police officers numbered 1,940 with 100 recruits in the academy. Chief Davis stated that reaching a complement of 2,300 officers would make managing crime more accessible.

Focused Deterrence call-in invitations for 2023 totaled 128, with 70 attending, and 36 accepting supported services.

Guns reported stolen from motor vehicles in Memphis are still considerably high; however, guns stolen decreased in 2023 to 2,124 compared to 2,478 in 2022.

### **RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

Deidre Malone provided the results of the public opinion survey recently conducted. This latest community-wide survey conducted by Public Opinion

Strategies for the Crime Commission shows that voters continue to express a high degree of respect for police officers, would like more of a police presence in their neighborhoods, and overwhelmingly endorse hiring more police officers.

At the same time, the job rating for local police has declined significantly since the last Crime Commission survey in 2021.

While there is a high level of respect and a desire for more officers, a significant percentage of respondents felt there was significant room for improvement in law enforcement's ability to protect the public from crime. While 51% of respondents felt local police were doing an excellent/good job in their neighborhoods, 47% felt they were doing a fair/poor job. The negative rating was especially significant when respondents were asked whether local police were protecting people specifically from violent crime, with 70% giving local law enforcement a fair/poor rating and 27% an excellent/good rating.

#### **CITY OF MEMPHIS GROUP VIOLENCE**

Dr. Rachael Rief spoke on the evaluation of the City's Group Violence Intervention Program. Dr. Rief stressed partnerships as a key to success. Mr. Gibbons stated that the violence intervention model has been used successfully in many other cities. Mr. Gibbons also stated that there are three keys to success: Implementation, scaling it up, and sustaining it over time.

#### **PUBLIC CRIMINAL JUSTICE DASHBOARD**

Bill Gibbons presented a resolution to the Board recommended by the Executive Committee in support of a criminal justice inter-agency data-sharing initiative and public dashboard. Chairman Adams emphasized that this was just a start for each entity to work together, but an important one.

*The motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the dashboard resolution as presented.*

#### **RECEPTION ON FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Chairman Adams invited the board to the Crime Commission reception on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Financially the Crime Commission is in good shape. However, fundraising efforts are needed. This reception is designed in part to thank our donors.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Ben Adams and District Attorney Mulroy stated the importance of reducing the turn-around time in forensic testing. Ben Adams and Bill Gibbons asked D. A. Mulroy to draft a resolution in support of a local forensic lab, to which he agreed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned...

**Presented by:**

**Sharon (Sam) Walker**

**Executive Assistant**

## **Memphis Shelby Crime Commission Board Meeting**

**January 25, 2024**

**Attendance:**

1. Ben Adams
2. Louis "Bo" Allen
3. Com. Charlie Caswell
4. J. Matt Cunningham
5. Tom Cleves
6. Tom Cowens
7. Chief Jeff Cox
8. Chief C. J. Davis
9. Susan Deason
10. Rob DelPriore

11. Douglas DePodesta
12. Greg Duckett
13. John Dudas
14. Mayor Lee Harris
15. Jeffrey Higgs
16. Henry Hooper
17. Carolyn Jackson
18. Lt. Jimmie Johnson
19. Stevie Moore
20. D. A. Steve Mulroy
21. U. S. Attorney Kevin Ritz
22. Blair Taylor
23. Coleman Thompson
24. Mayor Paul Young
25. Dorcas Young Griffin
26. Janika White
27. Dr. Regan Williams
28. Deidre Malone
29. M. Moore
30. Sgt. Walt
31. Deputy Chief Sanders
32. Charity Cole
33. Leslie Taylor
34. Joe Gurley
35. Norman Blake
36. Dan Weddle

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

1. Jerry Blum
2. Marc Rottink
3. Vinessa Brown
4. Stacey Sherley-Muhammed
5. April Buckner

6. Edward Dobbs
7. Paul Morris
8. Craig Weiss
9. Jim MaMahon
10. David Rausch
11. Floyd Bonner
12. John DeBerry
13. Rep. John Gillespie
14. Terry Harris
15. Senator London Lamar
16. Mayor Mike Palazzola
17. Joseph Saab
18. Melanie Blakeney
19. Horace Carter