



Board of Directors Meeting Report
January 23, 2025
Conference Rm: #2: 3:30 p.m.

Board of Directors chair Ben Adams called the January 23rd board meeting to order. The October 24th board report was approved.

APPROVAL OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

The board voted unanimously to fill a key vacancy with U.S. Marshal Tyreece Miller, bringing extensive federal law enforcement experience to the Commission.

REPORT ON YEAR-END KEY OUTCOMES, MILESTONES

The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission closed out 2024 with encouraging data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). Reported major violent crimes decreased by 4.2% in the city of Memphis and 3.9% in all of Shelby County, while property crimes dropped by 19.7% in Memphis and 19.5% countywide. Overall, reported crime decreased by 10.7% in Memphis and 11% in Shelby County.

Despite this progress, gun violence remains a significant concern, as noted by Bill Gibbons. Mr. Gibbons updated the board on the Milestones document, a collaborative report card outlining stakeholder goals and accomplishments. He stated that the 2025 version is still in development and was not yet ready for distribution. The finalized 2024 Milestones document and a newly developed 2025 version will hopefully be presented at the next board meeting.

Bill Gibbons also provided an update on Focused Deterrence (Action Step 1), which targets serious offenders. From January to December 2024, a total of 492 individuals were contacted through the intervention engagement part of the program. Of those, 200 interventions were conducted, and 112 individuals

accepted supportive services offered to them. For the call-in part of the program, 88 were invited, 51 attended, and 35 accepted supportive services.

REPORT ON SAFE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN, STEP 9

Susan Deason presented Step 9 of the Safe Community Action Plan: “Develop a system of intensive supervision and appropriate treatment for serious youth offenders.” This is being actively implemented through SWITCH, a citywide violence intervention program focused on high-risk individuals.

- Targeted individuals include:
 - Gang-affiliated youth and adults
 - Those who have been shot or shot at
 - Those with family members impacted by gun violence
 - Individuals who have not completed their education
- Support team includes:
 - Outreach specialists, life coaches, case managers, and clinical specialists
- Referral sources:
 - Youth: primarily referred to by the legal system
 - Adults: most referrals come from the outreach team
 - Goal: more balanced referral sources for both age groups
- Stipends:
 - Adults are eligible for stipend incentives through Memphis Allies.
 - No stipends are currently available for youth participants.
- Reach:
 - Serving 450 individuals citywide, aiming to grow to 1,000+
 - Services delivered in schools, homes, and neighborhoods
 - No youth is turned away.
- Impact:
 - Only 12.9% of youth participants have been rearrested for gun-related offenses.
 - Services last a minimum of one year and can be extended.
 - Program focus: ensuring participants are safe, free, and alive
 - Ms. Deason reminded the board: “The path to success is not a straight line.”

REPORT ON NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

Kemp Conrad presented a proposal to relocate and consolidate criminal justice functions onto a new site rather than investing further in 201 Poplar. The proposed location is the former Firestone facility, located six minutes from downtown Memphis.

Key benefits highlighted:

- Improved transportation & coordination of inmate safety
- Ample space (75 acres) to include all criminal justice aspects along with a new jail
- Redevelopment of a distressed property and surrounding neighborhood
- Proximity to the current jail for operational efficiency
- Potential economic uplift and land use opportunities by freeing up valuable downtown real estate
- Accessibility and ample parking

Mr. Conrad asked for the support of the Crime Commission board in solidifying efforts.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Bill Gibbons indicated that a legislative briefing is scheduled for February 6th to hear directly from legislators and lobbyists and requested all board members to be in attendance.

THOMAS ABT PRACTICUM

Mr. Gibbons provided an update on the Thomas Abt Practicum, stating that it focuses on strategies such as focused deterrence, violence intervention, and data-driven hotspot policing. The primary purpose of the practicum is to evaluate current efforts and determine what is or isn't working to improve public safety outcomes.

PHASE 2 OF FORENSIC NEEDS

Dr. James McCutcheon is leading a forensic lab study to outline current and future needs. The study has now entered its second phase, which is being funded by the

county and conducted by the Public Safety Institute. Results from the first phase are available on the Crime Commission's website. Phase two will focus specifically on the needs of the Sheriff's Office and suburban law enforcement agencies, with an emphasis on digital forensics and rapid DNA testing. The project is being conducted in collaboration with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI).

FINANCIALS

Financial reports indicate that the Crime Commission has more than one million dollars in the bank. However, Mr. Gibbons clarified that a portion of these funds is earmarked for specific purposes and is not available for general operational needs.

Other Business

Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Higgs led a conversation with the Baptist Ministerial Council, seeking broader community involvement in recruitment. Community members who submit names of recruits who complete police training can direct a \$1,000 incentive to a nonprofit of their choice. Mr. Gibbons encouraged board members to provide opportunities through faith-based organizations or civic organizations to solicit support.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned...

Presented by:

Sharon (Sam) Walker

Executive Assistant

Memphis Shelby Crime Commission Board Meeting

January 23, 2025

Attendance:

1. Ben Adams
2. Louis "Bo" Allen

3. Andrew Bland III
4. Jerry Blum
5. Vinessa Brown
6. April Buckner
7. FBI SAC Joe Carrico
8. Harold Collins
9. Sgt. Matt Cunningham
10. Tom Cowens
11. Chief C. J. Davis
12. Susan Deason
13. John Dudas
14. Chris Fairey
15. U. S. Atty. Reagan Fondren
16. James Kirkwood
17. Atty. Steve Mulroy
18. Pastor Keith Norman
19. Mayor Mike Palazzolo
20. Stacey Sherley-Muhammad
21. Blair Taylor
22. Coleman Thompson
23. Paul Young
24. Dorcas Young Griffin
25. Daniel Weddle
26. Haley Simmons
27. Ike Seelbinder
28. Leigh Hollingworth
29. Brian Tillman
30. Delvin Lane
31. Kemp Corad
32. Webb Kirkdoffer
33. Valerie Matthews
34. Steve Shular
35. Joe Gurley
36. Mike Rogers
37. Tamika Williams

- 38. Michael Rogeu
- 39. Sandy Bromley
- 40. Tyreece Miller
- 41. Amaia Iratzoqui
- 42. Jeremy Baker
- 43. Ethel Hillard
- 44. Rosi Lane
- 45. Dr. Veronica Brown
- 46. A. C. Sharonda Hampton
- 47. D. C, Sharon Cunningham
- 48. K. Durell Cowan
- 49. Dedrick Chism
- 50. Bobby White
- 51. Ron Walker