



Special-Called Legislative Board Meeting
600 Jefferson, conference room #2
December 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The special-called legislative board meeting was called to order by Chair Ben Adams.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Chair Adams explained that the meeting was convened to address legislative matters requiring timely board discussion and consideration.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill Gibbons provided an update regarding a recent meeting with the State Comptroller's Office. Mr. Gibbons highlighted that the Comptroller's Office is placing increased emphasis on data collection and performance measurements.

He also reported that the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute (PSI) has released the best practice document on focused deterrence, a major component of the Crime Commission's Safe Community Action Plan. Copies of the document were available at the meeting, and it appears on the PSI website.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mr. Gibbons reported that the Crime Commission's legislative priorities have been organized into three broad categories:

- Keeping violent offenders out of our neighborhoods,
- Strengthening gun violence intervention and enforcement, and
- Reducing dangerous behavior & disorder, changing sentencing laws, and addressing justice system infrastructure

DISCUSSION

Chair Adams noted the draft 2026 state budget and legislative priorities document and opened the floor for discussion.

State Senator London Lamar and Leslie Taylor expressed concerns regarding several items as they were presented in the draft document. Shelby County District Attorney General Steve Mulroy provided additional clarification about those concerns.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION AND BOARD ACTION

There was discussion about proposed legislation prohibiting probation upon conviction of aggravated assault involving the discharge of a firearm.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to modify the aggravated assault legislative proposal to create a presumption of incarceration.

State Senator London Lamar and Leslie Tayhlor emphasized challenges related to domestic-abuse offenses, noting concerns that one-time offenders and repeat batterers should not be treated within the same category for purposes of punishment. Memphis Police Department Chief C.J. Davis emphasized that enforcement efforts should focus on high-risk individuals rather than punishing one-time offenders, noting the significant impact such distinctions have on expungement records.

Chair Ben Adams stated that expungements should remain within the discretion of the presiding judge. Shelby County District Attorney General Steve Mulroy recommended that a wait period, discretionary with the judge, occur before expungement eligibility.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to support legislation giving judges the discretion to impose a wait period of up to a year for expungement eligibility and giving judges access to arrest records of Domestic Violence defendants.

The Memphis Police Department requested enhanced sentencing for offenses committed while concealing identity, such as the use of masks. Senator Lamar expressed concern that such enhancements could be applied to innocent youth.

A motion was presented, seconded, and approved to accept the enhancement provision as written.

Regarding firearm-related provisions, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the proposal as presented.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to include legislation modifying the definition of deadly weapon in committing aggravated assault to include items fashioned to be a deadly weapon.

Street racing was discussed and identified as a Class E felony, with modifications to allow for vehicle impoundment and seizure upon conviction.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the item with a modification to delete the word “promote.”

Cargo theft was discussed as currently classified as a Class E felony or general theft offense.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to support strengthening the offense by elevating it from a Class E felony to a Class D felony.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to advance two items presented by District Attorney Mulroy.

Mr. Gibbons requested that District Attorney Mulroy provide recommended language in drafting the legislation and recruiting prime sponsors. D. A. Mulroy agreed to do so.

County Commissioner Mick Wright noted the need for funding to plan, design, and construct a new jail.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded, and approved to support legislation authorizing a referendum to provide a funding source for planning, designing, and constructing a new jail.

MAYOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

Chair Ben Adams requested board approval of Mayor Young's proposal on the state budget.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved with modifications.

It was noted during the discussion that while certain monetary needs may be targeted toward Shelby County, the funding focus should be Memphis.

CONCLUDING REPORT

Following the discussion and final vote on the budget and legislative agenda, Mr. Gibbons summarized key themes from the discussion and noted that the modifications adopted by the Board would be made in the final document.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

ATTENDANCE

1. Ben Adams
2. Andrew Bland, III
3. Jeremy Baker
4. Harold Collins
5. Tom Cowens
6. Chief C. J. Davis
7. Susan Deason
8. Rep. John Deberry
9. John Dudas
10. D. Michael Dunavant
11. Terry Harris
12. Jeffrey Higgs
13. Henry Hooper
14. James Kirkwood
15. Sen. London Lamar
16. D. A. Steve Mulroy
17. Keith Norman

18. Mayor Mike Palazzola
19. Blair Taylor
20. Leslie Taylor
21. Coleman Thompson
22. Daniel Weddle
23. Craig Weiss
24. Council member Janika White
25. Com Mick Wright
26. Dorcas Young-Griffin
27. Alexandria Taylor
28. Mairi Albertson
29. Forese Edwards
30. Martin Kula
31. Leslie Ti
32. Ron Walker
33. Jeremy Baker
34. Carolyn Jackson
35. Terrence Riley
36. Jerry Blum
37. Tamika Williams
38. Norman Blake
39. Valeri Matthews
40. Quran Folsom
41. Anthony Buckner
42. Andrew Brown
43. Joe Gurley

STAFF

Bill Gibbons, President
Mishell Vite
Kimberly Conley

REPORT SUBMITTED

Sharon Sam Walker
Executive Assistant to the President