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## January 22, 2026 BOARD REPORT

The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission (MSCC) Board meeting was held on January 22, 2026, and was called to order by Chairman Ben Adams.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October and December Board minutes were presented for approval. Bill Gibbons noted a correction, clarifying that the motion for approval should reflect approval of the October 23 minutes as drafted and an amendment to the December minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend December minutes by changing the language on state budget priorities and supporting legislation for funding a new jail. The amendment notes that the focus of the state budget priorities should remain on Memphis. Following this amendment, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the October and December minutes as amended.

### END-OF-YEAR MILESTONES AND CRIME TRENDS

Mr. Gibbons presented the End-of-Year Milestones Report and explained the Safe Community Action Plan color-coding used in the report. Blue indicates projected goals that were completed, red indicates that were not completed and yellow indicates goals in progress or partially met. The report reflected 26 blue, 17 red, and 5 yellow, representing improved performance compared to prior years.

Mr. Gibbons reported that new Milestones will be compiled for implementation in 2026. He further stated that major violent crime decreased by **27.6%** compared to 2024, the lowest level in the past eight years, and that major property crime decreased by **28%**, the lowest level in the past nine years. Reported major crimes declined across all categories.

The following crime statistics were presented:

- Reported violent incidents involving firearms in Memphis decreased by 38.1% in 2025 compared to 2024.
- **51.3%** of reported domestic-violence aggravated assaults involved a firearm in Memphis during 2025.



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- In FY 2025, **198 defendants** were charged in gun-violence cases brought before the U.S. Attorney's Office, with **158 guilty pleas or convictions**.
- Gun thefts from motor vehicles decreased by 86.8% in 2025 compared to 2024.

## MEMPHIS SAFE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Mike Dunavant provided an update on the status of the Memphis Safe Task Force cases. At his request, and at the request of DOJ leadership, 20 Judge Advocate General (JAG) attorneys have been assigned cases to alleviate the significant caseload burden on Memphis courts, which has resulted in nearly triple the normal volume of criminal cases in federal court. The JAG attorneys are assigned through September 30, 2026, coinciding with the end of the federal fiscal year.

The cases assigned to the JAG attorneys are generated directly from the Memphis Safe Task Force. Since October 1, **205 defendants** have been charged in federal court, with **157 indictments** issued.

## CITY GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE

Tamika Williams reported on the status of the City's gun-violence reduction initiative. She stated that the City's goal is to reduce non-fatal shootings by **40% by 2027**. Ms. Williams emphasized that restoring hope within the community is a central component of the initiative and that addressing long-term systemic challenges must involve the entire community. Prevention and intervention remain the overarching objectives.

Ms. Williams noted that identifying demographics alone is insufficient, as group violence is increasingly shifting toward interpersonal violence. The City's strategy includes both people-based and place-based approaches. **901 Peace**, the people-based strategy, leads gun-violence reduction efforts by identifying individuals at the highest risk of involvement in gun violence, either as a shooter or potential victim. **Operation Code Zero**, the place-based strategy, targets criminal activity in identified hot-spot areas throughout Memphis.

Ms. Williams stated that this initiative had a reset in **February 2025** through a practicum with Thomas Abt and continues with ongoing training. Community forums are planned to gather public input and strengthen community engagement.



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## TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL REPORT AND MAYOR'S REMARKS

Lt. Col. Jimmie Johnson reported that Shelby County ended 2025 with fewer fatalities than 2024, declining from 219 to 143.

Lt. Col. Johnson reported on the status of state trooper deployment in Memphis and Shelby County. He stated that THP has been working in coordination with the Memphis Safe Task Force, while emphasizing that the agency's primary mission remains highway safety.

Lt. Col. Johnson presented the following enforcement results covering the period from **September 29 through December 31**:

- **49,185** traffic stops
- **23,695** citations issued
- **987** felony arrests
- **2,389** misdemeanor arrests
- **272** felony drug arrests
- **280** DUI arrests
- **196** reckless driving arrests
- **142** wanted people apprehended
- **99** stolen vehicles recovered
- **228** weapons seized
- Participation in **118** vehicle pursuits

Mayor Paul Young acknowledged the progress achieved through current public safety efforts and emphasized the importance of sustaining momentum by strengthening proven strategies to achieve continued and lasting reductions in crime.

## BOARD COMMENTARY AND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Chairman Ben Adams reported a **31% reduction in violent crime** and a **43% reduction in property crime** over the past two years. He further noted a **40% reduction in Part I crimes**, representing a combination of the most serious violent and property offenses. Chairman Adams emphasized that these reductions should be considered amid national media reports identifying Memphis as leading in violent crime and homicides. While acknowledging that Memphis still has significant work ahead, he encouraged the Board to recognize and celebrate the progress achieved.



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Mr. Gibbons reviewed items included in the legislative agenda. Following discussion, the Board took the following actions:

- **Enhanced sentencing for wearing masks:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved to remove this item from the legislative agenda and pursue it at a later date.
- **New jail legislation:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved to remove this item from the legislative agenda and pursue it at a later date.
- **Imitation firearms:** Based on the recommendation of the Crime Commission's lobbyist not to pursue this issue, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to remove this item from the legislative agenda.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

1. Ben Adams
2. Sheriff Floyd Bonner
3. Mr. Tyrone Burroughs
4. Mr. Tom Cowens
5. Chief Jeff Cox
6. Chief C. J. Davis
7. Mr. D. Michael Dunavant
8. Mr. Chris Fairey
9. Mr. Jeffrey Higgs
10. Mr. Henry Hooper
11. Lt. Col. Jimmie Johnson
12. Pastor James Kirkwood
13. Mr. David May
14. U. S. Marshall Tyreece Miller
15. U. S. Atty. Joe Murphy
16. Mayor Mike Palazzolo
17. Ms. Blair Taylor
18. Ms. Leslie Taylor
19. Mr. Coleman Thompson
20. Mr. Daniel Weddle
21. Com Mick Wright
22. Mayor Paul Young
23. Ms. Dorcas Young-Griffin
  
24. Valerie Matthews



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25. Mr. Bill Piper
26. Ms. Tamika Williams
27. Mr. David Brown
28. Mr. Burt Burraston
29. Mr. Andrew Ujipe
30. Mr. Chris Forti
31. Mr. Chris Johnson
32. Mr. Jeremy Baker
33. Mr. Quran Folsom
34. Mr. Andrew Brown
35. Ms. Alexandrie Taylopr
36. Ms. Lydia Brown

Staff:

Michelle Vite

Linda Russell

Bill Gibbons, President

Report generated:

Sharon (Sam) Walker

Executive Assistant to the President