



## **NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office**

*Lee Harris, Mayor*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2019-2020 SHELBY COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL**

Memphis, TN – Shelby County Commissioners and Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris are looking for young people who are passionate about civic engagement and want to develop a working knowledge of county government.

This first-ever investment in a Shelby County Youth Council was accomplished in partnership with youth leaders trained by the local nonprofit BRIDGES. BRIDGES' work with youth dates back to 1988 and they are currently working "on the forefront of the national movement for youth-led social change".

"As a Bridge Builder alum, I am proud of Bridge Builders CHANGE for taking on this initiative. Over the years, I've had the privilege of seeing youth at BRIDGES and across Shelby County work towards a more equitable and just county for themselves and all of us. Shelby County Government will be better for having them at the table," says Shelby County Commissioner Tami Sawyer.

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“Youth will work with the County Commission and our office throughout the year to gain insight on county government, creatively address issues, and increase youth engagement,” says Mayor Lee Harris. The Shelby County Youth Council plans to hold a Youth Summit in early 2020 to engage the expertise of young people across the county.

“The Shelby County Youth Council is a great opportunity for youth leaders to learn about government and make change in their communities. Youth are directly affected by many decisions made by government and their perspective on these decisions is important,” says Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris.

"We know that there are many talented young leaders in Shelby County and this will be a fun and challenging opportunity for the high school students who get involved. There's no question that the Youth Council will not only enhance adult leaders' perspectives, but also the inclusion of young people in decision-making will make our community a better place to live for everyone," says BRIDGES President Dana Wilson.

The Shelby County Youth Council is open to all high school age Shelby County youth. Based at the new BRIDGES Youth Action Center in Uptown Memphis, the council will require a once-a-week time commitment. Youth can apply at [bit.ly/scyouthcouncil](http://bit.ly/scyouthcouncil) until September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

(end of release)