



MEMPHIS AFL-CIO LABOR COUNCIL

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS
1870 MADISON AVENUE • MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104
PHONE: 901-278-3200 • FAX: 901-278-3202

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Eddie S. Jones
Shelby County Commissioner
Budget Committee Chair
160 N Main, Suite 600
Memphis, TN 38103
Eddie.s.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov

VIA U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL

Commissioner Jones:

Memphis AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, along with the undersigned union and faith leaders, community activists, stakeholders, and elected officials write to express our fervent support to keep funding for flexible paid sick leave and paid parental leave for Shelby County government employees in the FY2021 budget. These public servants keep the crucial work of government running. Their financial security and wellbeing affect how all residents access vital government services and is key to preserving public health.

This pandemic has highlighted the issues that many workers already face when they don't have these benefits. When workers do not have paid sick leave, they are often forced to make a dangerous choice between coming to work sick and putting food on the table or staying at home and losing their pay. When employees do not have paid parental leave, parents not only are faced with difficult decisions financially. New parents now have the added responsibility of protecting their growing family from contracting COVID-19. Our public servants are at a higher risk of contracting the illness and we have a moral responsibility to protect these working families.

We respectfully ask for a public commitment from you and other willing county commissioners to keep these crucial benefits in the FY2021 budget. Shelby County government employees and workers across the county don't have a moment to spare. Your leadership on this issue will inform how businesses and employers protect workers all across Shelby County. We are counting on you to lead.

In Partnership,

Memphis and West Tennessee AFL-CIO Central
Labor Council Executive Board

A Better Balance: The Work & Family Legal
Center

Paul Shaffer
Vice President, IBEW 474

Temika D. Gipson
Shelby County Circuit Court Clerk

London Lamar
TN State Representative, District 91

Irvin Calliste
President, USW

MORE SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE



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Teamsters 667

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Sergeant-At-Arms, SEIU 205

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AFSCME 1733

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APWU 96

Robbie Pace
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Jeff Bell
IAM 61

Rev. Osagyefo Sekou
Interim Executive Director
Workers Interfaith Network

Micheal Wilson
President, BA Local 713

Keith O. Williams
Executive Director
Memphis Shelby County Education Association

Gibson Jones
President, National Treasury Employees
Union (NTEU), Chapter 98

Rev. Edith A. Love
Unitarian Universalist Minister
Resistance: Street Church

Joyce Richardson
AFSCME Local 1733

Rev. Dr. Terri Strong
African Methodist Episcopal Church West
Tennessee Conference
Social Action Committee Chairperson for the
Ministerial Alliance

Rita Smith
Shelby County Schools

Samantha Bradshaw
Economic Equity Task Force Co-Chair
MICAH- Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action
and Hope

Curtis Davis, Jr.
Economic Equity Task Force Co-Chair
MICAH- Memphis Interfaith Coalition for
Action and Hope

cc: Shelby County Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Lee Harris, Shelby County Mayor