



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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**SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CORRECTS DECADES-LONG PAY DISPARITY
WITH RAISES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES**

***Mayor Lee Harris' administration to provide substantial pay raise for Shelby County
Corrections Officers.***

Shelby County, TN – Today, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris has announced that the administration's plan to raise the salaries of over 200 corrections employees has been approved unanimously by the Shelby County Commission. Shelby County corrections officers can expect a raise of up to 20 percent. County officials hope that the raise will help recruit and retain critical public safety employees. The raise addresses a decades-long disparity in pay between corrections officers and other similar occupations in Shelby County. Shelby County commissioners approved the measure in last night's commission meeting.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: "We are pleased to announce this substantial increase in salary for over 200 of our public safety employees. When our administration learned of the decades-long pay disparity, we went to work to do something about increasing our officers' pay. This raise will address a significant pay disparity, help us recruit and retain officers, and provide for the safety and welfare of our community. I'd like to thank Division of Corrections Director Anthony Alexander for his leadership and AFSCME leaders Jason Hunter and Gail Tyree for their advocacy and willingness to work towards a solution."

AFSCME Executive Director Gail Tyree: "Our Division of Corrections members will be happy to receive this increase, which offsets a pay gap that has existed for 20 years. They



deserve it and they have earned it. This substantial raise shows that their hard work has not gone unnoticed by Mayor Harris' administration."

Division of Corrections Director Anthony Alexander: "This is going to be a good year for our employees. The pandemic has been tough, and they have gone above and beyond to keep our inmates and the community at large safe. Our leadership appreciates the advocacy of AFSCME in correcting this long-standing pay disparity."

Shelby County Commission Chairman Willie F. Brooks, Jr.: "I am glad that we found a way to work with all stakeholders to correct this pay disparity and raise the pay of our corrections officers. These individuals work tough jobs and long hours to keep our community safe. The County Commission and Mayor Harris will continue to work collaboratively to recruit and retain our community's public safety employees."

(End of Release)