



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

***Lee Harris, Mayor***

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

JULY 28, 2022

Jennifer L. Sharp  
Policy & Communications Fellow  
Office: 901.222.2011  
Mobile: 901.426.7947

**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF THE  
SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL ON GUN SAFETY**

*The newly formed council includes more than two dozen individuals from diverse backgrounds who will work together to promote gun safety and reduce gun deaths.*

**Shelby County, TN** – Today, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris announces members of the Shelby County Council on Gun Safety. The council will bring together community members in a collective effort to reduce gun deaths and act on gun safety. Council members will meet at least twice monthly. The diverse coalition includes 15 gun owners, two high school students, and five gun violence survivors. It also includes educators, parents, healthcare workers, current and former law enforcement, and other concerned residents.

**2022 Shelby County Council on Gun Safety Members:**

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Addie Burks      | 13. Jaila Hampton   |
| 2. Adrian Ward      | 14. Jonathan Cross  |
| 3. Alvin Crook      | 15. Justin Johnson  |
| 4. Anthony Self     | 16. Kathy Haaga     |
| 5. Audrey Elion     | 17. Lesia Bullard   |
| 6. Dale Anderson    | 18. Marcus Manuel   |
| 7. David Page       | 19. Mark Havener    |
| 8. Don Adams        | 20. Reggie Eskridge |
| 9. Elaine Ulmer     | 21. Shahin Samiel   |
| 10. Eric Harris     | 22. Stacie Payne    |
| 11. Erica May       | 23. Tara Cash       |
| 12. Gladys Robinson | 24. Tara Samples    |



25. Willie Simon

Over the last several years, the Tennessee General Assembly has consistently rolled back existing gun regulations. Since state lawmakers passed a bill allowing people to keep loaded guns inside their vehicle without a permit, guns stolen from cars annually have skyrocketed in Memphis. In recent years, Memphis has topped the list for unintended shootings by youth. Tennessee has the 11th highest rate of gun deaths in the United States.

**Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris:** “The goal of the council is to work collaboratively to raise awareness, encourage best practices, and reduce the risk of tragedy. Even in the absence of state-level changes, there are common sense steps we can take to improve gun safety while respecting the rights of gun owners. It will take a community-wide effort to reduce gun-related deaths. I look forward to working with our residents who stepped up to the task.”

**Jerri Green, Policy Advisor to Mayor Lee Harris:** “As someone who has had gun violence impact my life three times, I am proud to work for an administration that understands that thoughts and prayers alone are not enough. We must have policy and action that support concrete ways to make our community safer. I look forward to working alongside this Council on initiatives that support gun safety.”

**Stacie Payne, Council Member and Gun Violence Survivor:** “As a survivor and educator, I want to use my voice to make a difference in our county as it relates to gun safety. I understand the importance of common-sense gun laws and proper gun storage. I am proud to be a member of the Shelby County Council on Gun Safety and I am excited to make a positive impact with my fellow council members to reduce gun deaths.”

**Willie Simon, Council Member and Gun Owner:** “I believe in the Second Amendment and the promotion of education surrounding gun rights and safety. I also believe that owning a gun is a responsibility that must have regulations.”

(End of Release)