



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HARRIS ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES “OUR NEXT ERA” PLANNING
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Over 30 residents have been selected to serve from a pool of 150 applicants. The committee will propose new Harris Administration initiatives to guide the next four years.

Shelby County, TN – On Friday, September 23, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., the new “Our Next Era” planning committee will meet for the first time at the prominent Burch, Porter & Johnson law firm in Downtown Memphis. Modeled after Harris’ 2018 Transition Team, over three dozen community volunteers will dedicate the next several weeks to researching and proposing innovative solutions to help guide the next term of the Harris Administration. The team will be led by community leaders, who include Memphis-Shelby County School Board Commissioner Kevin Woods, Regional One Health Board member Reginald Milton, and rising neighborhood development leader Raushanah Morgan. In addition, Paul Morris, 2018 transition team co-chairman, will serve in an advisory capacity.

The planning committee includes advocates and experts who work in education, workforce training, neighborhood planning, entertainment, community organizing, and healthcare. Two high school students will also help spur ideas to guide Mayor Harris’ priorities. All members will serve on one of five sub-committees: Student Achievement, Inclusive Workforce Development, Healthcare Access, Neighborhood Development, and Community Empowerment.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “It is an honor to encounter so many residents who believe in the vibrancy and potential of our community. I consider Shelby County to be the best county in our state, and we can be a model for other communities around the country. I look forward to working collaboratively with the ‘Our Next Era’ Planning Committee to define an action plan for our next four years.”



See the complete list of “Our Next Era” Planning Committee members below:

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- **Mark Sturgis** - CEO, Seeding Success
- **Carla Fields-Richardson** - Executive Director, Reading with Mrs. Richardson
- **Jasmine Worles** - Managing Communications Director, KIPP Memphis Public Schools
- **Shelica A. Cox** - Community Leader
- **Anne Thomas** - Education Leader
- **Mary Flagg** - Community Leader
- **Shawndolyn Sims** - Instructional Resource Specialist, Memphis-Shelby County Schools
- **Jade Thornton** - Senior Manager of Talent Acquisition, Stronger Consulting
- **Lauren Giovannetti** - Senior Communications Specialist, FedEx
- **Dr. Cathryn Stout** - Chief of Communications and Broadcast Services, Memphis-Shelby County Schools

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Trevia Chatman** - Community Leader
- **Karlyn Hillard** - Assistant District Attorney, Shelby County District Attorney Office
- **Marcus Newman** - Advisor, FedEx
- **Sheneka Balogun, Ed.D.** - Director of Growth Operations, Epicenter
- **Christina Steverson** - Director of Operations, Noremac Media Group
- **Natalie J. McKinney** - Executive Director and Co-Founder, Whole Child Strategies, Inc.
- **Meka Egwuekwe** - Executive Director, CodeCrew

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- **Anna Mullins Ellis** - President & CEO, New Memphis
- **Amber Sherman** - Community Leader
- **Rajah Brown** - Director of Operations, Memphis Child Advocacy Center
- **James (Bo) Adams** - Doctor
- **Leshundra Robinson** - Co-Founder and Executive Director, UCAN of Memphis
- **Wilson Wages** - Attorney
- **Bianca Dishmon** - Student

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- **Kalimah A Azeez-Rashada** - Project Coordinator, Cocaine Alcohol Awareness Program, Inc.
- **Sherry L. Rout** - Government Relations & Advocacy Liaison, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis
- **Peter Melcher** - Community Leader
- **Lori Elaine Porter** - Community Leader
- **Hunter Demster** - Community Organizer, First Congregational Church

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

- **Andrea Jacobo** - Visiting Instructor and Public Health Director, Rhodes College
- **Lena Chipman** - Managing Director, Concentrix Catalyst
- **Rev. Thurston Smith** - Adjunct Professor, Graceland University
- **Spencer Beckman** - Director of Development & Communications, Community Legal Center (CLC)
- **David Upton** - Community Leader
- **Krishnav Manga** - Student