

Q&A with Councilwoman Gerre Currie
Meet the new Memphis City Council District 6 Representative



What prompted you to seek appointment to the City Council?

I believe my expertise in the financial arena could be a great benefit to the Council and in my service to the District. Wanting to continue my service to my community on an expanded level was another of the primary drivers that compelled my decision to seek the Council appointment. I am a proponent of the adage, “If you’re not a part of the solution, don’t be a part of the problem.”

What do you see as the most pressing need in your District?

There are multiple pressing needs that come to mind. The needs of District 6 mirror those of the community: concerns about taxes, crime, education, transportation, living wages, safe streets and derelict of homes in the area. Our job as Council Members, as I see it, is to make the best decisions to address these needs in our community, within the constraints of the City budget, and articulate our support of those decisions to the community.

If you were asked to articulate a vision for your District, what would you say?

I hope to continue the work that former Councilman Ford established in creating economic development in the community. District 6 covers a wide berth, and my representation of the area should be based on the needs expressed by the citizens of the community.

Is there anything you would specifically like to accomplish during your time on the Council, either for your District or for the City as a whole?

I am excited about working within this 13-member body to continue moving Memphis forward. Memphis has so many wonderful organizations, non-profits and businesses that are partnering behind the scenes to make our city better. I share the same concerns that any citizen holds about taxes, crime, blight, and education. If my contributions and votes move the needle in minimizing some of those concerns, I would call that a success. I know the current Council is composed of caring, professionals who will work to be cohesive in sharing the blueprint of what is happening in the city.

What excites you most about being on the City Council? What excites me most about being on the Council is the level of interest that I have received from the community about my appointment. I hope that my position and the entire Council are revived by citizens who realize that there is indeed room at the table for individuals that want to make changes in the City. This is an awesome opportunity, and I know it requires time, research and commitment. You want to do your best; and in doing so, you realize that you need a group of supporters to help you be successful. I am fortunate to have a strong group of people in the community to whom I can reach out for help.

Tell us something about yourself that might surprise people

I have eight granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. I have one grandson and one great-grandson. My granddaughters are scattered across the country and are involved in the accounting industry, education and medical fields. They make me proud every day. I call them “my ladybugs,” even though I’m actually afraid of ladybugs Correction: I’m afraid of bugs, period. I love to bake; it’s relaxing for me. Also, I am forever rearranging furniture in my home.

Name something you love about living in Memphis.

I love our weather. I love the River Parks and I especially love that there are communities in the city where people still know their neighbors. I love that we are a big city with a small-town feel.

How would you spend a free day in Memphis (where you would go and why)?

The Guest House at Graceland is a wonderful place to go and people-watch. Plus, it’s just a gorgeous hotel for meeting friends. The River Park has great walking paths, and the views of the Mississippi River defy description. There are so many wonderful restaurants in Memphis to select from, I can’t choose just one. I will say that I love eating out!