

**Good Morning and Happy Friday, Memphis!**



In [last week's recap](#), I updated you on the progress achieved during the September 7 Council meeting. Topics covered (1) increasing support to Memphis citizens in need of rental and utility assistance, (2) bolstering local affordable housing programs, (3) furthering the development of Liberty Park, and (4) funding the invaluable efforts of City of Memphis first responders.

Since that time, a recessed meeting was called to continue our consideration of the Administration's proposal for the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) aid. That meeting took place on Tuesday (full review provided, [here](#)). The need to reconvene was based upon the Council's desire to activate once-in-a-generation stimulus support within the space where it is needed most: *The Memphis community.*

At this point, you may be asking yourself: *How does ARPA work?*

Well, I'll briefly explain.

ARPA was signed into law on March 11, 2021. In addition to providing nearly \$2 trillion of monetary relief for individuals and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the bill contains several key provisions designed to assist states, counties, cities, and tribal governments seeking to (i.) address increased expenditures, (ii.) replenish lost revenue, and (iii.) mitigate economic harm caused by the public health emergency.

You may also be asking yourself: *How does this impact Memphis?*  
I'll explain that, as well.

The City of Memphis was fortunate, in that we received approximately \$161,061,490 in economic support, to be received in two tranches and ultimately utilized through December 2024.

To date, our City has received the first tranche of approximately \$80,530,745. The second installment will arrive next spring. However, having received these funds, the work now turns to establishing a plan for their use. With that in mind, on August 3, Mayor Strickland's Administration presented a proposal for ARPA allocation over the next three years. The plan recommends directing the stimulus aid into the following areas:

1. City Operational Support Initiatives,
2. Community Health Initiatives,
3. Community Support Services,
4. Youth Services Support Initiatives,
5. Housing and Community Development Initiatives,
6. Mobile Library Community Service,
7. Animal Services Community Support Initiatives,
8. Group Violence Intervention Programming,
9. Public Safety Initiatives,
10. Community Micro-Grocery Initiatives,
11. Boys and Girls Club Community Support, and
12. Council Initiatives

As proposed, the plan will position Memphis for its greatest comeback yet, in ways including, but not limited to: Funding job training and assistance to unemployed workers to accelerate new hiring across our community, building healthier neighborhoods and improving residents' health outcomes by better connecting men, women, and children to healthcare providers, funding mortgage assistance and home repair programs, expanding access to

broadband, supporting our local tourism and hospitality industries, increasing access to after-school programming to provide additional instruction and extracurricular activities to our youth population. In addition, the plan will invest in public safety efforts to reduce crime, increase recruitment, and improve interactions between public safety officers and our diverse citizenry.

Taken together, the expenditure recommendations are designed to accomplish your Memphis City Council's cornerstone priorities, i.e., securing solutions for all Memphians that ensure a strong, sustained, and equitable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, on Tuesday, the Council passed a resolution approving an ARPA Allocation Plan for the City's \$161,104,490 in stimulus support. View that plan, [here](#).

### **Save the Dates – Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grant Virtual Workshops:**

While ARPA marks a turning point in Memphis' present and future recovery, key work can still be carried out, by residents just like you, to keep our neighborhoods safe. With that in mind, the City of Memphis is now accepting applications from resident-led groups seeking Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grants.

Organizations may be long-standing, newly established, or in the process of forming. Funding may be used to support a variety of projects, such as:

1. Installing additional lighting,
2. Installing surveillance systems,
3. Installing doorbell cameras,
4. Organizing neighborhood-based engagement events,
5. Transforming areas into community gardens,
6. Conducting youth-enrichment programs,
7. Enhancing beautification (e.g., community-wide clean-ups),
8. Creating and distributing neighborhood newsletters, and

9. Creating and distributing neighborhood directories - *just to name a few*

So, if you, or someone you know, is interested in applying, please attend the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grant Virtual Workshop on one of the following dates:

**October 7, 2021** from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,  
**October 20, 2021** from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., or  
**November 3, 2021** from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Register to attend, [here](#). View additional workshop and application information, [here](#). Just remember, applications close on November 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. (CDT).

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***Looking Forward:***

As we move ahead, I am honored to serve you each day as part of a thirteen-councilmember team working to transform our city into a place of opportunity for all. Stay tuned for future Council updates as we keep you informed regarding the activities taking place here at City Hall.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Colvett, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chairman Frank Colvett, Jr.  
Memphis City Council  
District 2