CITY COUNCILMAN MYRON LOWERY'S REPORT ON COUNCIL ACTIONS FOR 2007

JANUARY

Received report from Chamber of Commerce regarding economic growth in Memphis. Reviewed the 2007 Legislative Agenda.

Transferred the Permits Department from the Finance Division to the Law Division. Approved the sale and transfer of public property (Front Street Post Office) to TN Board of Regents for use as the U of M Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

Amended budget to provide services to the Berryhill and Southwind Annexation Areas. Authorized HCD to award funds to 501 (c) 3 organizations for the purpose of community initiatives, community development and business/economic development activities. Exempted police officers, paramedics and Emergency Management Agency employees from the residency provisions of the Memphis City Charter.

Increased 2007 appropriation for ADA Facility Compliance for remediation of City facilities under Settlement Agreement between Memphis and the US Dept of Justice.

FEBRUARY

Appropriated \$2,400,000 for paving of Holmes/Tchulahoma/Lamar project.

Appropriated \$1,600,000 to the Division of HCD for planned project activities.

Adopted a resolution to continue preparation of plans for Overton Park Shell Restoration.

Appropriated \$539,995 for installation of ADA ramps at various locations in the City.

Adopted a resolution making Memphis a model city honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Extended the \$2.00 Taxi Fuel Surcharge for six months.

Adopted request to TN General Assembly to allow cities authorizing tax relief program for the elderly to establish their own guidelines within the state approved income limit. Discussed timeline/cost of extension of sewer lines to annexed areas.

Adopted resolution authorizing the sale of property on Jefferson to Memphis Devco.

Approved \$127,967 to upgrade to MLGW's interactive voice response system.

Discussed usage of Libertyland site and the Mayor's stadium proposal.

Discussed hours of Neighborhood Watch coordinators for improved community support.

Received update on summer camp programs, expanded activities, partnerships.

Received update on community center renovations.

Appropriated \$200,000 from contract construction within HCD-Middle Income Developer's Assistance Program to contract construction within Wesley Phase III. Congratulated Jasmine Holmes, TN rep. for 2007 Nat'l Young Leader Conference. Congratulated Airport Authority / Frontier Airlines for expanded service from Memphis. Presentation of the Fairgrounds Master Plan.

MARCH

Approved the sale of 1161 Walker to LeMoyne-Owen College for affordable housing. Resolution appropriating \$216,081 for ADA Curb Ramps. Appropriated \$742,239 for Shaeffer Drive Sewer Extensions.

Instructed OPD to refuse Idlewild infills until proposed historic designation study done.

Adopted a resolution honoring the Memphis Civil Rights Sit-In of March 1960.

Authorized the issuance and sale of General Improvement Bonds to retire old bonds.

Appropriated \$455,000 for sidewalk construction to comply with ADA requirements.

Accepted \$364,176 from Shelby Co. for the Justice Assistance Grant to provide crime prevention programs, overtime and law enforcement equipment.

Appropriated \$43,108 for Walnut Grove guardrail installation.

Discussed the creation of an additional rail right-of-way and requested feasibility study.

Discussed the creation of an aerotropolis and requested study and preliminary plan.

Approved a resolution opposing the "Competitive Cable & Video Services Act."

Discussion with independent counsel regarding MLGW investigation.

APRIL

Approved a resolution changing the name of Pendleton Street from Park Ave. to Lamar Ave. in honor of former University of Memphis Tiger Basketball Coach Larry Finch.

Accepted \$750,000 from TN Fast Track Infrastructure Dev. Program for drainage improvements/expansion of BNSF TN Yard Intermodal Facility at Lamar and Shelby.

Accepted additional \$750,000 for relocation of utilities and jet fuel line at Frank C. Pidgeon Industrial Park for reconstruction of the Johnston Yard by Illinois Central RR.

Authorized HCD to award \$752,000 to the Firestone Project for infrastructure activities.

Created a committee to explore establishing Memphis as a Tree City USA.

Adopted resolution approving the Dixie Homes Urban Renewal plan.

Discussed revised Ethics Ordinance.

Discussed MLGW's incorporation of a living wage requirement for contractors.

Discussed TN Investigative Audit of the Memphis Intermodal Transit Facility.

Congratulated the University of Memphis Tigers on their outstanding basketball season.

Discussed the process for filling Council vacancies.

Approved the transfer of tax delinquent property from Shelby County to the Memphis Housing Authority for the University Place Redevelopment Project.

Appropriated \$63,790 for purchase of three service vehicles for the Memphis Library.

Accepted \$8,910,000 from TDOT for Holmes/Tchulahoma/Getwell project.

Requested that related organizations excluded from the city's financial statements present their annual audit at the first meeting in March.

Encouraged the General Assembly to take action supporting title lending reform.

Approved rewards for the apprehension and conviction of persons who have committed unsolved heinous offenses.

Received Mayor Herenton's proposed Operating Budget of \$537,679,851, CIP Budget of \$251,317,000 and Memphis City School Budget of \$879,979,600 for 2008.

Resolution accepting grant funds from Cargill, Inc. to be used to retro-fit solid waste trucks that operate on diesel fuel to improve air quality within the community.

Presentation by the Memphis – Shelby County Crime Commission.

Ordinance to amend regulation of the rail transportation of hazardous materials.

Quarterly presentation from the Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion of acquiring property adjacent to Crenshaw Library to provide parking. Appointment of Elbert Jefferson as City Attorney.

MAY

Discussion of the Ethics Ordinance.

Discussion of the MLGW rebate to customers and natural gas purchase.

Extended congratulations to MPD and Director Godwin for accreditation by Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Appropriated funds for construction of the Audubon Golf Storage Building.

Accepted \$7,000,000 loan from TN for sewer and force main, Phase 1-Mary's Creek.

Accepted loan from the State of TN of \$2,550,000 for Mary's Creek Sewer - Phase 2.

Accepted funds from Plough Foundation for the Raymond Skinner Center for a new van.

Appropriated construction funds for improvements to the Overton Park Shell.

Began impasse hearings between city unions and the administration.

Honored Edward A. Bumpus for his long-time commitment and service to Memphis.

Approved honorary street name of Olympian Rochelle Stevens Avenue on Dedrick Ave.

Commended Mr. Webb Brewer for outstanding work for Memphis Area Legal Services.

Declared May 14 – May 17, 2007 as "Business Economic Development Week".

Discussed security in city hall.

Held O&M and CIP budget hearings.

JUNE

Approved Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Budget for the City of Memphis; \$537,000,000. Approved the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2008; \$250,000,000. Approved the Memphis City Schools budget for 2007 – 2008 of \$879,979,600 with the City funding \$93,760,000.

Fixed the tax rate of the City of Memphis for Fiscal Year 2008 with no increase.

Accepted \$672,750 grant from State for training of 1,495 fire service personnel.

Discussed regulation of electronic billboards and signs.

Approved contribution to the general fund of LeMoyne-Owen College of \$1,000,000.

Adopted the Division of Park Services Wolf River Greenway Master Plan.

Accepted Bloch Foundation award of additional \$150,000 for Cancer Survivors Park.

Appropriated \$3,835,250 for Organized Crime Unit special funds for Fiscal Year 2008.

Adopted ordinance amending the text of the Subdivision Regulations.

Established a moratorium on adult-oriented business permits until Dec. 5, 2007.

Approved an honorary street name change on Sewanee in honor of S.L. and Ida Jones.

Honored Dave Brown for 30 years of outstanding service to WMC-TV 5.

Resolution amending the rules of procedure for the process to fill a Council vacancy.

Appropriated \$1,500,000 for the Police Real Time Crime Center.

Passed resolution supporting the passage of Senate Bill 1967 - Gun Crime Bill.

Resolution applauding Northwest Airlines for its emergence from bankruptcy.

Accepted grant of \$106,000 from TN Dept of Labor for WIA Admin Services Grant.

Accepted grant of \$954,004 from TN Dept of Labor for WIA Title One Youth Services.

Accepted funds of \$1,142,400 from TN for training of 1,904 commissioned officers.

Requested limit on boards one person may serve and assurance of diversity on boards.

Elected Henry Hooper II Interim Council Member for District 8, Position 2.

July

Amended Code of Ordinances on Background Checks for Fire Protection Personnel.

Accepted grant of \$4,035 from TN Dept of Human Services for Title One Career Center.

Established joint committee to study benefits of consolidating MPD and Sheriff's Dept.

Approved honorary street name change on Hanley St. in honor of Ruby Jackson Payne.

Commended Shuntell Williams for heroic actions that saved her 5-year old neighbor.

Accepted funds of \$100,000 from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness for a Terrorism Early Warning Classified Exercise.

Resolution requiring full disclosure and audit of MLGW's interest in Memphis Networx.

Amended FY 08 Budget to release \$500,000 for Summer Youth Employment Program.

Accepted \$46,000 from the State for books and materials for the library.

Discussion of the efforts of Operation Take Back to reduce crime and blight in Memphis.

Discussed resolution to amend regulations regarding junk and scrap metal dealers.

Received update on the Legislative Session.

Discussed ordinance on Council authority to discipline elected officials.

Report on status of MLGW severance benefit plan.

August

Accepted funds from TDOT for signal system to help traffic congestion and pollution.

Discussed graffiti ordinance.

Resolution urging MMPO to expand the scope and authority of the Bicycle and

Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Discussion of changing park hours of operation.

Resolution approving feasibility study of a second rail line to Pidgeon Industrial Park.

Presentation on the 5 Year Anti-Blight Campaign.

Discussed ordinance to establish a senior property tax freeze.

Appropriated funds to replace and improve equipment on City's workstations and servers.

Appropriated \$392,000 to replace the current antiquated Council voting system.

Amended regulations regarding animals and fowl.

Accepted \$136,992 from Dept. of Labor for WIA Title I Career Center Resources Share Grant.

Revised Council districts re: newly annexed areas to comply with injunction decree.

Presentation of FY 2006 Audit Report from quasi-governmental agencies.

Discussed moratorium on MLGW cut-offs when the heat index exceeds 100 degrees.

Amended ordinances increasing duties to City Attorney pursuant to the Housing Code.

Created Special Hearing Officer for violations of the City Housing Code.

Modified ordinances to allow fines for Code Enforcement violations of Housing Code.

Discussion of ordinance allowing suspension or removal of an elected official.

Discussion of the FY 2008 Public Art Plan.

Discussion of Neighborhood Preservation Amendment.

September

Discussed the Code of Ordinances so as to establish a standard for use of biodiesel fuels. Accepted grant funds from Dept. of Labor for WIA Title One Youth Services, Adult Services and Dislocated Workers Grants.

Discussion of MLGW's bill analysis web site.

Resolution appropriating funds to continue the implementation of the Urban Art Plan.

Resolution appropriating funds for preventive maintenance of capital assets for MATA.

Appropriated funds to purchase 10 para transit buses for MATA.

Resolution appropriating funds to purchase 4 service vehicles for MATA.

Discussion of distance restrictions for off-premise beer sales.

Approved plans, specifications and taking of bids for Vehicle Inspection Station.

Appropriated funds for share of construction costs for the South Intermodal Terminal.

Established fund for Sam Cooper Pedestrian Bridge at Sevier.

Approved plans, specifications and taking of bids for the Street Maintenance Building.

Resolution appropriating funds in ADA Facility Compliance for various City facilities.

Discussion of City public safety employee's military leave and employee bonus.

Quarterly report on the PILOT Program.

Resolution appropriating funds for the Legends Park Redevelopment project.

Accepted funds from THDA for HARP – Retrofit Program for the Physically Disabled.

Resolution extending the moratorium on billboards until March 18, 2008.

Extended Idlewild neighborhood moratorium on infills until February 29, 2008.

Accepted \$779,500 from Dept.of Homeland Security for TN Task Force One.

Appropriated \$603,714 for Roland Road Sewer to provide service to an unsewered area.

Resolution appropriating \$220,000 for Sidewalk Replacement 2008.

Commended Memphis Area Plumbing Assoc. for contributing to provide air-conditioning window units to qualifying citizens affected by high temperatures in the mid-south.

Recognition of Mr. Jackie Welch and those who contributed to the Raleigh

Community Center Day Camp and other community centers that needed assistance.

Resolution outlining the process for developing the legislative agenda.

October

Approved \$40,000 for the Memphis Tomorrow Supplier Diversity Project.

Heard update on the Memphis Networx audit.

Update on Tax Relief and Senior Tax Freeze Programs.

Resolution requiring boards, commissions and quasi-governmental agencies to produce a diversity workforce statement and adopt a supplier diversity policy.

Discussion of a resolution regarding the Zippin Pippin.

FY 2006 Audit presentation from quasi-governmental agencies.

Resolution for Police Organized Crime Unit to buy 14 cars with Drug Reserve Funds.

Discussed Plan of Action – Final 90 Days of 2007.

Joint resolution to amend the CRA Workable Program.

Resolution adopting a community redevelopment plan for UNDC/Highland Row area.

Issue bonds for financing improvements, additions and extensions to sewerage system.

Discussion of the status of the National Civil Rights Museum.

Resolution to recognize and clarify some MPD positions as appointed, not Civil Service.

Ordinance establishing a salary for the Office of Mayor at \$171,500.

Discussion of the last best offer process in labor negotiations.

Accepted \$149,535 from Dept. of Justice for 2007 Gang Resistance Ed. and Training.

Accepted \$14,999 from TDOT program to strengthen safety initiatives.

Accepted \$992,515 from TDOT for sobriety patrols and check points at top crash sites.

Accepted \$196,816 from TDOT for patrols of sites based on Shelby Co. DUI statistics.

Accepted \$108,290 from TDOT for patrols on select holidays and national campaigns.

Resolution for Hickory Hill Precinct Real Time Crime Center Improvements \$150,000.

Appropriated \$192,500 for Air Mask System Units for Div.of Fire Services.

Appropriated \$192,500 for Fire Fighting Turnouts/Fire Protective Ensemble.

Resolution appropriating \$299,759 for "Life Shirts" and equipment for Fire Services.

Update on the completion of Phase 3 of the EMS restructuring.

Accepted offer on city-owned property of 58.98 acres at E. Presley Blvd. and Shelby.

Discussion of bicycle lanes.

Discussed amending regulations regarding sale of beer for off-premise consumption.

Amended ordinance re:changes requested by FEMA for Nat'l Flood Insurance Program.

Authorized appropriation of \$3,000,000 for City of Memphis Anti-Blight Strategy.

Elected Scott McCormick 2008 Council Chairman.

Elected Myron Lowery 2008 Council Vice-Chairman.

November

Established City of Memphis International Council.

Discussed Memphis Economic Development Initiative.

Presentation on 2006 audit report from the Memphis Zoo.

Discussion of Beale St. Management lease with the City of Memphis.

Amended regulations regarding sale of beer for off-premise consumption.

Appropriated \$146,275 for Emergency Units for Fire Services.

Appropriated \$115,000 for Forensic Lab Burn Room Insulating System.

Funded Computer Aided Dispatch Upgrade.

Resolution appropriating \$46,941 for fire fighting SUV's for Fire Services.

Authorized HCD to award \$706,991 to 501(c)(3) organizations for community initiatives.

Created Division of Community Enhancement to address blight in the City of Memphis.

Adopted Graffiti Ordinance.

Allocated \$1,370335 for handicap curb ramp projects.

Accepted \$2,943,400 from TDOT for Arterial Signal Improvement Project.

Adopted OPEB Investment Trust for pre-funding benefits for current and future retirees.

Set public hearing for gas and water rate increases from MLGW.

Approved MLGW 2008 Electric, Gas and Water Operations/Capital Budgets.

Appointed Jerry Collins President of MLG&W.

Presentation of Fairgrounds Redevelopment Proposal.

Discussed Tourist Development Zone at the Fairgrounds.

Discussed Sign Ordinance.

Accepted \$149,535 from Dept of Justice for Gang Resistance Education in MCS.

Commended Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks on receiving Presidential Medal of Freedom Award.

December

Established a Senior Property Tax Freeze.

Ordinance prohibiting minors soliciting from right of ways.

Established the City of Memphis International Council.

Established the City of Memphis Youth City Council.

Adopted Adult-Oriented Establishment Registration Ordinance.

Resolution honoring the life of Wanda Martin, Deputy Director of OPD.

Resolution honoring the life of Harry "Buddy" McEwen.

Amended Code of Ordinances regarding Junk and Scrap Dealers.

Appropriated \$2,750,000 for FS04004 CAD to replace the obsolete fire system.

Appropriated \$1,224,477 for three pumpers for the Division of Fire Services.

Appropriated \$1,299,342 to purchase 2 aerial trucks for the Division of Fire Services.

Appropriated \$85,446 to purchase 1 hydrant truck for the Division of Fire Services.

Appropriated \$100,000 for Overton Park Shell Capital Improvement Program.

Passed resolution to appropriate \$250,000 for Zoo maintenance.

Allocated \$245,000 in Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment for Community Centers.

Moratorium on building permits until an updated plan is adopted for Uptown Memphis.

Moratorium on adult-oriented business and compensation dance permits.

Delayed Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance.

Congratulated Margaret Bland McKissick Larry as Principal of the Year for TN.

Honored Jerry Collins for his service to City of Memphis Government.

Honored Robert Lipscomb for his service to the City of Memphis.

Honorary street name change on Park Avenue as "Sam Bomarito Boulevard."

Honorary street name change on Wesley Drive for Dr. Harold Leon Taylor.

Honorary street name change on N. Avalon Ave. in honor of Frances Utterback Crain.

Honorary street name change on Hester Road for William H. Ward.

Recognized Sgt. Chris Jones of the Shelby County Metro D.U.I. Squad.