



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

***Lee Harris, Mayor***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS HAS SELECTED NOMINEE TO SERVE  
AS NEXT CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

*The nominee will replace Public Defender Stephen Bush, who is retiring this month.*

Memphis, TN - Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris has concluded a several-month process to select the next Chief Public Defender of Shelby County. Current Public Defender Stephen Bush will retire, effective today, February 28, 2019

Mr. Bush announced his intentions to retire last summer. After Mayor Harris took office in September, Mr. Bush offered to continue his service while the Mayor conducted a thorough search process to identify Mr. Bush's successor.

"The role of Chief Public Defender is critical in our community, and I'm thankful that Mr. Bush allowed this administration the time to conduct a careful search," says Mayor Harris.

After considering several outstanding candidates, Mayor Harris has selected his top pick to serve as the next Chief Public Defender. The Mayor will present the nominee to the Shelby County Commission at its next committee meeting on March 20, 2019. Mayor Harris plans to announce his nominee in advance of that meeting.

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Pursuant to the processes established by Shelby County Government, Mr. Bush's Deputy Assistant Public Defender shall serve as acting Chief Public Defender pending the Shelby County Commission's confirmation of the new Chief Public Defender.

"Stephen Bush has over twenty-five years of distinguished service in the County Public Defender's Office, and he has served our community well as Chief Public Defender since 2010," says Mayor Harris. "I congratulate Mr. Bush on his well-deserved retirement."

(end of release)