



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Frankie Dakin
Shelby County Government
Press Secretary
Office: 901.222.2057
Mobile: 901.496.0131

**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS NAMES DEANDRE BROWN ACTING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE OF REENTRY**

For the past 12 years, DeAndre Brown has for led LifeLine to Success, a nonprofit agency that helps ex-offenders, like him, work and reenter society.



Shelby County, TN – Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris has chosen DeAndre Brown, executive director of nonprofit organization LifeLine to Success, as the acting executive director of the Shelby County Office of Reentry.

Brown, who spent nearly two years in prison, founded the nonprofit in 2009 with his wife to help ex-offenders reenter society. Brown's own criminal history had blocked him from becoming a

VASCO A. SMITH, JR. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
160 North Main Street, 11th Floor Memphis, TN 38103
901-222-2000 Fax 901-222-2005
www.shelbycountyttn.gov



volunteer chaplain at a local hospital. That experience fueled his commitment to help other ex-offenders develop skills to reenter the community and find meaningful employment.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “I believe that DeAndre Brown will approach his work at the Office of Reentry with the same commitment he’s shown while building LifeLine to Success. He has the opportunity to hit the ground running with our existing programs to reduce recidivism and give ex-offenders tools to successfully reenter society. We hope that his experience and connections to the community will help grow our reentry program and change more lives.”

DeAndre Brown: “It was clear when we started LifeLine to Success that if given the tools and the opportunities, ex-offenders could become successful and productive citizens. It’s the same for people who look to the Office of Reentry for guidance and help. They need to know that hope exists and not only that it exist, but that they can have it. This office has an impressive list of programs and partners, but I believe I will be able to build on what other leaders there have accomplished.”

Shelly Rice, President of the Frayser Exchange Club: “DeAndre is going to bring a wealth of knowledge to this office. He’s extremely qualified. He’s proven he knows how to work in that environment and he’s walked every one of those steps and persevered. He’s no stranger to it and he cares so much about these people. They want to get on the right path and he helps everybody get that trust back.”

The Shelby County Office of Reentry is located at 1362 Mississippi Blvd. It connects ex-offenders to resources and employers willing to hire them. There is technical and vocational training for small engine repair, construction, low voltage electrical apprenticeships, and forklift operation. Through the 10-to-12-week FOCUSED program, ex-offenders can get help with employment deficiencies, mental and emotional needs, family reconnection, financial literacy and the restoration of their rights. Partners with the Office of Reentry include Workforce Mid-South, Hope Works, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology and the University of Memphis.

For more information, visit reentry.shelbycountyttn.gov.

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