



News from the Shelby County Register of Deeds and Archives Office
Shelandra Y. Ford, Register
Suite W-153, 1075 Mullins Station, Memphis, Tennessee 38134

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**REGISTER SHELANDRA Y. FORD TO HOST LIVE RADIO FORUM ON FRAUDULENT
DEED FILINGS AND THE HOUSING CRISIS IN SHELBY COUNTY**

*Conversation to include Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris and will air live on WAVN - FM 104 and
WAVN - AM 1240.*

WHAT: Live Radio Forum on Fraudulent Deed Filings and Affordable Housing
WHEN: Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 2 p.m.
WHERE: WAVN - FM 104 and WAVN - AM 1240. Listeners can call in to ask a question
at 901.295.9223

Shelby County, TN – Today, Shelby County leaders will come together to discuss the issue of fraudulent deed filings and the potential housing crisis faced by our community. Participants in the radio forum include Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, Commissioner Eddie S. Jones Jr., Register of Deeds Shelandra Y. Ford, Property Assessor Melvin Burgess, Trustee Regina Morrison Newman, Property Assessor CAO Javier Bailey, Attorney Ursula J. Woods, Deborah Williams- Real Estate Broker, NAREB President Wonda McGowan, and Cheryl Muhammad, Realtor.

According to the Shelby County Register's office, trends show that out-of-town investors are buying up the majority of Shelby County's affordable housing supply at an alarming pace. While at first glance the trend appears to represent a robust housing market, leaders are concerned that soon our community's lack of affordable housing will cause home prices will skyrocket to levels that will prevent the average working Memphian from being able to afford a home.

About Deed Fraud:

Deed fraud, also known as title fraud, occurs when someone forges a transfer of real property. It is one of the fastest growing forms of identity theft in the country. Deed fraud can cause people to be wrongfully evicted from their home, oftentimes resulting in homelessness. Victims of deed fraud can spend thousands of dollars in fraudulent payments to persons purporting to be landlords. The real property owner(s) can in turn spend thousands of dollars and fight through very lengthy legal process to reclaim their property. Since taking office in 2018, Shelby County Register of Deeds Shelandra Y. Ford has been at the forefront of this very egregious crime and has initiated a plan to increase the penalty for crimes associated with fraudulent deeds filings.

Shelby County Register of Deeds Shelandra Y. Ford: “Memphis and Shelby County are facing a possible economic crisis in its housing and real estate industries. We also have seen an alarming number of fraudulent deeds filed. We hope this forum will help inform the public and serve as a jumping off point for collaboration to address both issues.”

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “I applaud Register Ford for convening this very important conversation on affordable housing and for sounding the alarm on fraudulent deed filings. Home ownership is an important tool to both build wealth for your family and invest in your community.”

The radio forum will be held live on Wednesday, October 20 at 2 p.m. on WAVN - FM 104 and WAVN - AM 1240. Listeners are encouraged to call in and pose a question by dialing 901.295.9223.

(End of Release)