



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS PROMOTES DEANDRE BROWN TO
PERMANENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE OF
REENTRY**

*DeAndre Brown has expanded existing programs and started new ones that help ex-offenders
rebuild their lives after incarceration.*



Shelby County, TN – Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris announces today, March 15, 2022, that DeAndre Brown, has been promoted to permanent executive director of the Shelby County Office of Reentry. Brown has served as interim executive director since August of 2021. Brown and his wife, Vinessa Brown, founded Lifeline to Success, a nonprofit organization for ex-offenders, after his own incarceration and reentry.

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Since joining the Office of Reentry, Brown has expanded programming focused on the mental health of returning citizens. The office has hosted a job fair and block party that drew hundreds of visitors. He has extended the FOCUSED program to include inmates with the Division of Corrections. FOCUSED is an 11-week program that combines job training with other assistance like family reconnection, financial literacy, and voting rights restoration. In addition, Brown has also established inside the prison training programs for janitorial work and the care of natural African American hair.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “DeAndre Brown has shown that he is devoted to helping the formerly incarcerated turn their lives around. We had hoped his experience and connections to the community would help to grow the reentry programming, and, we were right.”

Office of Reentry Executive Director DeAndre Brown: “I still don’t believe this is happening. I am actually living the dream. I promise the citizens of Shelby County to use everything in me to make sure the men and women in this program have an opportunity to be successful when they return from prison.”

The Shelby County Office of Reentry is located at 1362 Mississippi Blvd. It connects ex-offenders to resources and employers willing to hire them. In addition to the FOCUSED program, there is technical and vocational training for small engine repair, construction, low voltage electrical apprenticeships, and forklift operation. Partners with the Office of Reentry include Southwest Tennessee Community College, HopeWorks, Alliance Healthcare Services, Christ Community Health Services, Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center, and Economic Opportunities.

For more information, visit scofficeofreentry.com.

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