



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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MAYOR LEE HARRIS APPOINTS LONG-TIME COMMUNITY LEADER, HAROLD COLLINS, TO SERVE AS CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Harold Collins brings decades of public safety, program administration, and political experience to the role.



Shelby County, TN – Effective June 1, 2022, Harold Collins will take the reins as Shelby County's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the highest-ranking appointed official in Shelby County Government. As CAO, Collins will work closely with Mayor Lee Harris to implement policies that advance the public's interests and will lead the day-to-day operations of all major divisions of the administration.

Collins served on the Memphis City Council from 2008 until 2015, representing residents of Whitehaven and serving as council chairman in 2009. As a city councilman, Collins advocated to create more vo-tech training opportunities for youth and young adults, supported residents returning to the community after incarceration, and fought to retain pension and health benefits on behalf of police officers and firefighters. During his tenure, he helped Southwest Tennessee Community College expand its footprint to include a Whitehaven campus, which now serves up



to 1,500 high school and college students through a vocational and technical learning center in southwest Shelby County.

Collins currently serves as deputy director of the Shelby County Division of Corrections, where he develops and leads programs to prepare inmates for their return to society. He previously was appointed by Mayor Harris to lead the Shelby County Office of Re-Entry, where he created the office's first small engine repair program, an earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship program for residents with criminal histories. He also secured over \$1,000,000 in grants to support workforce training and earned national recognition for creating a soft skill training program to help recent offenders prepare for life after incarceration. Prior to joining Mayor Harris' administration, Collins served as vice president of community engagement at the Memphis-Shelby County Crime Commission for three years and as a special assistant to the district attorney general for twelve years.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: "I am excited that Harold Collins has agreed to accept the position of chief administrative officer in this administration. Harold is dedicated to public service and has been an asset to Shelby County Government at the Office of Re-Entry and with the Division of Corrections. His long history of service, integrity, and commitment to this community are what make him a great leader for this role."

Harold Collins: "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve the residents of Shelby County, and I consider it a tremendous honor to have the confidence of Mayor Lee Harris. I look forward to joining in pursuit of his goal to lift up Shelby Countians. I am excited to serve."

Support for Harold Collins' appointment as the county's CAO comes from members of the business community, public sector, philanthropic partners, neighborhood leaders, union partners, and Democratic party officials.

TaJuan Stout-Mitchell, former Memphis City Council Chairwoman: "I've known Harold Collins for over three decades and consider him a man of character and a man of his word. He loves this community and looks for opportunities to serve others. Years ago, I watched Harold and then-Councilman Lee Harris develop a bond over their shared goal of supporting our community, and I really respect Mayor Harris for recognizing their similarities and identifying a capable co-conspirator to help advance the kinds of issues that will make lives better."

George Little, Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections: "Harold Collins is the perfect person to serve Shelby County in this role. I've watched him grow in his service over the years, developing strong skills in criminal justice, education, and management."



His skills are a perfect complement to Mayor Harris' vision, and the residents of Shelby County will be well served."

Bobby White, Chief Public Policy Officer at the Greater Memphis Chamber: "Harold will be great in this role. His experience as a city councilman will be extremely beneficial in the administration's work to build consensus with members of the Shelby County Commission on projects of importance. In particular, I am encouraged to know of Harold's sensitivity to the workforce challenges facing employers and his past efforts to support and prepare workers for job and career opportunities."

Hendrell Remus, Chairman of the Shelby County Democratic Party: "Harold Collins is indeed the right person for this role. His selection to serve as CAO is yet another example of Mayor Harris making a concerted effort to ensure that Shelby County is set on a more progressive and prosperous trajectory. Harold has been a reliable mentor and advisor to so many of us who have ascended to leadership roles. His depth of knowledge and understanding of socio-economic issues, infrastructure needs, and a whole community approach to health and safety will be on full display as he helps to build a stronger Shelby County."

Tomeka Hart Wigginton, former Memphis City Councilwoman and Managing Director of Blue Meridian Partners: "Harold Collins is an excellent choice as CAO of Shelby County. He's a visionary leader with vast experience in local government management. He's a visionary and strategic thinker, and he understands the importance of collaboration, collective impact, and community-based decision-making. Harold will be an asset to county government leadership."

Thomas Malone, President of the Memphis Fire Fighters Association: "On the behalf of the Memphis Fire Fighters Association, I want to personally congratulate Harold Collins on his new role with Shelby County Government. I could not think of a better person to assume the responsibilities of the chief administrative officer."

Hazel Moore, Community Leader and "Mayor of Whitehaven": "I have known and worked with Harold Collins for years and I know how hard he worked as a Memphis City Council member for the Whitehaven community. I know that he will do a wonderful job in his new role as the chief administrative officer for Mayor Lee Harris."

Gail Floyd-Tyree, Executive Director of AFSCME Local 1733: "Our labor union represents a significant number of employees with the Division of Corrections, so I've worked directly with Harold Collins. It is gratifying to see his advancement within Shelby County Government. He is an excellent choice for CAO."



Paul Shaffer, Business Manager/Financial Secretary for IBEW Local 474: “After working with Harold Collins for many years, I have seen how much he cares for our county’s workforce. I am impressed by the work he has done in Shelby County and cannot wait to see what he will do as the new CAO.”

Reverend Dr. J. Lawrence Turner, Senior Pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church: “Harold Collins has always had Memphis and Shelby County on his heart and mind. He has served our community well in the past and now comes to the awesome responsibility of the administration of our county with courage, competence, and compassion. I’m excited for him, his family, and for Shelby County.”

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