



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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

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**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE RECOGNIZES LOCAL GOVERNMENT
WATCHDOG WITH SHINING STAR AWARD**

***Joe Kent is recognized for his tireless efforts as an advocate for transparency and accountability
for elected officials.***

Shelby County, TN – Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris awarded local activist Joe Kent with the special honor bestowed upon civic leaders who contribute to the betterment of Shelby County. Past recipients include healthcare professionals, educators, activists, youth leaders, public defenders, technology professionals, and other hard-working residents whose “light shines bright through their service.” The decision to recognize Shining Stars began as a holiday tradition in the Soulsville community but quickly became a staple at events throughout the year. These leaders are especially important to Shelby County, going above and beyond to improve the community.



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Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “If you have been to a Memphis or Shelby County Commission meeting, you’ve probably seen Joe Kent. Joe Kent is quickly becoming Shelby County’s most reliable “Watchdog.” He spends as much time educating the public through social media as well as penning well-sourced articles on his Just My Memphis blog, reporting on both sides of the civic plaza. He ensures that the public gets through to the truth of the matter and holds elected officials accountable. It’s his steadiness, consistency, and focus that make Joe Kent a Shining Star.”

Joe Kent is a local watchdog, prominent local blogger, and economic development reform activist dedicated to positively impacting Shelby County. He is affectionately known as the “community watchdog” due to his passionate commitment to advocacy for transparency and accountability for community initiatives. Fostering positive change through knowledge and awareness makes Joe Kent a 2023 Shining Star.

(End of Release)