



OFFICE OF MAYOR A C WHARTON, JR.
Memphis City Hall
125 North Main Street, Suite 700
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
901.576.6000

MAYOR WHARTON ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF THE BEALE STREET STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 4, 2010

Memphis, Tennessee – Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. today publically announced the names of the individuals he has chosen to serve on the Beale Street Strategic Planning Committee who will provide a strategic vision and framework for this historic destination and tourist attraction.

This announcement comes on the heels of Mayor Wharton’s decision to settle the lawsuit between the city of Memphis and Performa Entertainment, the company that managed Beale Street for nearly thirty years.

Wharton commented, “Beale Street is an invaluable asset for our city whose authenticity and universal influence is unassailable. It has been a musical proving ground for many legendary artists, and it has inspired millions through the music that originated or that was perfected and innovated on this hallowed spot of Earth. With such a rich legacy, I am committed to our doing everything within our power to further reclaim, highlight, and preserve this history of excellence for future generations.”

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee will be divided into three (3) working groups: 1) Vision/Mission Development; 2) Legal/Financial; 3) Governance & Management Structure.

The Strategic Planning Committee Members are as follows:

- **Ward Archer**, Archer Records
- **Ron Belz**, Belz Enterprises
- **Scott Bomar**, producer & film composer
- **Willie Brooks**, FedEx
- **Wei Chen**, Sunshine Enterprise
- **Harold Collins**, Chairman – Memphis City Council
- **Kemp Conrad**, Memphis City Council
- **Loyal Featherstone**, Realtor
- **J. W. Gibson**, Shelby County Commission
- **Pat Halloran**, The Orpheum
- **Kenya Hooks**, Brittenum Bruce PLLC
- **Fred Jones**, Southern Heritage Classic
- **Jim Kyle**, Tennessee State Senate

- **Pat Mitchell**, Memphis Music Foundation
- **Paul Morris**, Center City Commission
- **Deanie Parker**, former President & CEO of Soulsville
- **Elliott Perry**, retired NBA/non-profit representative
- **David Porter**, musical legend
- **Gayle Rose**, philanthropist
- **Sid Selvidge**, recording artist
- **Jay Sieleman**, Blues Foundation
- **Jack Soden**, Elvis Presley Enterprises
- **John Oros**, Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau
- **Wayne Tabor**, Holiday Inn
- **Elaine Turner**, Heritage Tours
- **John Vergos**, Rendezvous Restaurant
- **Johnnie Walker**, Memphis & Shelby County Music Commission
- **Kirk Whalum**, recording artist/President & CEO of Soulsville
- **Sam Cantor**, Sam Cantor & Company
- **Preston Lamm**, River City Management
- **James Clark**, Eel, Etc.

Relative to the choices for the Strategic Planning Committee, Mayor Wharton remarked, “We have such a large group of individuals because first, I was very interested in ensuring this important team was fully inclusive and participatory. To be quite frank, the other reason was we had overwhelming interest from all segments of our community. While we couldn’t include every interested party, we have assembled a group that is diverse and well informed in a number of areas that are directly or tangentially critical to the issues that will be addressed going forward.”

In efforts to shore up critical operations during this transition, Mayor Wharton also announced an Interim Operating Group – mostly City of Memphis officials – that will support efforts in the Beale Street Historic District on an interim basis. The members of this group are as follows:

- Security – Larry Godwin, Memphis Police Director
- Garbage/Sanitation – Dwan Gilliom, Director of Public Works
- Clean-Up/Street Maintenance – Becky Kissinger, Director of General Services
- Tenant Billing/Collections – Debbie Singleton, Administrator with Housing and Community Development
- Maintenance of Handy Park – Cindy Buchanan, Director of Park Services
- Accounting/Finance/Budgeting/Payables/Purchasing – Roland McElrath, Director of the Finance Division
- Communications/Public Relations/Advertising – Bobby White, Chief of Staff, Mayor’s Office
- Auditing – Elizabeth Moore, City Auditor
- Legal Services – Herman Morris, City Attorney

Regarding the process outlined, Wharton emphasized, “The legal and financial pieces will be extremely important as we move toward sound legal agreements and financial terms that are reasonable. Of course, the type of accountability the public deserves will be top of mind as will our interest in being as transparent as we can be with matters.”

On a related note, Mayor Wharton released a letter to Memphis City Council Chair Harold Collins expressing his agreement to having funds related to Beale Street submitted through the City's regular and appropriations process.

CONTACT: Bobby White, Office of the Mayor
901.576.6011 office, 901.484.6221 cell

