

# NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Ursula Madden, Chief Communications Officer

C: 901.302.0316

Email: [ursula.madden@memphistn.gov](mailto:ursula.madden@memphistn.gov)



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## Strickland creates task force to explore new vision for Memphis riverfront

**Jan. 25, 2017** | Memphis Mayor **Jim Strickland** announced today the creation of the Mayor's Riverfront Task Force, which will work to develop a dynamic new vision for the city's riverfront.

"Our riverfront is one of our most important, significant and historic assets," Mayor Strickland said. "It is crucially important that we create a riverfront that reflects our community as a whole and showcases Memphis to the world. I've charged this task force with developing an innovative and actionable set of recommendations on how the riverfront can be a connected and viable part of Downtown and our city as a whole."

Mayor Strickland appointed **Alan Crone**, special counsel to the mayor, as chairman of the Mayor's Riverfront Task Force. Other members of the group include:

- **Berlin Boyd**, District 7 representative and chairman, Memphis City Council
- **Jared Bulluck**, Director of Community and Alumni Engagement, Leadership Memphis
- **Carol Coletta**, Senior Fellow, American Cities Practice, Kresge Foundation
- **John Farris**, Chairman, Riverfront Development Corp.
- **Maria Fuhrmann**, Grants and Partnerships, City of Memphis
- **Jim Holt**, President and CEO, Memphis In May International Festival
- **Kevin Kane**, President and CEO, Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau
- **Rachel Knox**, Program Associate, Innovate Memphis
- **Mickell Lowery**, President, Downtown Neighborhood Association
- **Laura Morris**, Former Executive Director, Shelby Farms Park Conservancy
- **Bill Morrison**, District 1 representative, Memphis City Council
- **Terence Patterson**, President, Downtown Memphis Commission
- **Ray Pohlman**, Vice President, AutoZone
- **Lauren Taylor**, Program Director for Livable Communities, Hyde Family Foundations
- **Diane Terrell**, Vice President of Community Engagement, Memphis Grizzlies/Executive Director, Memphis Grizzlies Foundation
- **Paul Young**, Director, City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development

"Mayor Strickland's vision for the development of our riverfront is focused on showcasing Memphis as one of the nation's most historic, progressive, culturally rich, and welcoming cities," Crone said. "The members of this task force are a diverse reflection of the entire community, and we will be reaching out to the public throughout this process to gather their input on what will allow us to maximize Memphis' front porch."

City Council Chairman Boyd said he hopes to see this process reflect upon all of Memphis' neighborhoods.

Mayor Jim Strickland

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“I believe we must develop strong neighborhoods, and to do so, we must continue to build a strong city,” Chairman Boyd said. “I’m thankful Mayor Strickland is focused on building a waterfront that all of our citizens can embrace and enjoy and I look forward to working on this effort.”

The Mayor’s Riverfront Task Force will utilize the experience of Studio Gang, a nationally renowned architectural firm that has been contracted by Riverfront Development Corporation and has helped cities like Chicago develop vibrant and engaging waterfronts. The RDC is a partner in the Mayor’s Riverfront Task Force effort.

Recommendations and actions developed by the Mayor’s Riverfront Task Force will be in partnership with Memphis 3.0, the city’s comprehensive planning process that launched late last year.

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**Mayor Jim Strickland**

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