

# City of Memphis



**MYRON LOWERY**  
Mayor Pro Tem

TENNESSEE

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Shea Flinn  
Chairman  
Personnel, Intergovernmental & Annexation Committee  
City Hall - Room 514

Dear Chairman Flinn:

Subject to Council approval, it is my recommendation that:

***John Vergos***

be appointed to the Memphis Area Transit Authority with a term expiring June 30, 2012.

I have attached biographical information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Lowery". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Myron Lowery  
Mayor Pro Tem

ML:rb

c: Council Members

**John Vergos**  
**671 West Drive, Memphis, TN 38112**

**EDUCATION:**

- Graduated from White Station High School - 1966
- BA degree from SMU - 1970
- JD degree from University of Memphis- 1973

**PUBLIC SERVICE:**

- Served 8 years on the Memphis City Council - 1996-2004
- Practice Law for 13 years. 1974-1987. Licensed to practice in all State and Federal Courts including The United States Supreme Court

**CIVIC HISTORY:**

- Original Chairman of the Penal Farm For Public Use Committee 1971-1974. This committee kept Shelby Farms from being sold for development.
- Original organizer and attorney for Timpani Condominiums, 1976. This was the first downtown condominium development in downtown Memphis. This won the AIA for renovation.
- First class of Leadership Memphis 1977.
- Plough Park Advisory Committee - Vice Chairman 1976- 1981

**POLITICAL HISTORY:**

- Campaign Chairman for Pam Gaia State Legislative Race 1976.
- Co-Campaign Chairman Otis Higgs for Mayor 1979.
- Shelby County Campaign Chairman - Bredesen for Governor 1992

**WORK EXPERIENCE:**

- Presently owner operator of The Rendezvous Restaurant and Vergos International Products, Inc. ( Rendezvous Shipping)

**WRITINGS :**

Numerous articles for the Memphis Flyer, Commercial appeal, and Downtowner magazine.

**RESUME**

**JOHN C. VERGOS**  
671 West Drive  
Memphis, Tennessee 38112  
(901) 323-9094

**EDUCATION**

J.D. Degree, Memphis State University, December 1973. Worked full time at the Rendezvous to put self through law school in 2 1/2 years; Graduated in top one-half of class.

B.A. Degree in Government, 1970, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas; President, Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

**EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND (Non-Legal)**

Charlie Vergos Rendezvous, Inc., September 1971 - August 1974, and August 1986 to present; Part-owner and manager employing 56 people and seating 750 persons. At the Rendezvous, I created the first program in the country where pre-prepared food products were delivered overnight to the customer, which received national attention in New York Times, Southern Living, and other national media outlets.

Ward Foods Restaurant, Inc., February 1971; Managed seafood restaurants in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, employing 35 and seating 300 people.

Downtowner Hotels Management Trainee Program, May 1970; Worked in all phases of hotel management in Newark, New Jersey; Rochester, New York; and Kansas City, Missouri.

**EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND (Legal)**

Less & Scroggs; Memphis, Tennessee; July 1981 - August 1987; Partner; former law partner, Michael I. Less, is at Less, Getz & Lipman, 80 Monroe, Suite 950, Memphis, TN 38103.

Tual, Gordon & Tual; Memphis, Tennessee; September 1979 - July 1981; Partner; former law partner, Blanchard Tual, is at Tual & Pounders, 47 North Third, Memphis, TN 38103.

Less, Pinstein, Vergos & Garrison; Memphis, Tennessee; August 1974 - September 1979; Partner.

Areas of Practice:

I maintained a general civil trial practice in the areas of construction and business litigation. Further, I have tried criminal cases in the state and federal courts. I have argued appellate cases before the Court of Appeals in the Western Section of Tennessee; the Tennessee Supreme Court; the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; and have filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the United States Supreme Court.

Notable Cases:

In 1981, I worked with James Neal, the former Watergate prosecutor, in the successful defense of Dr. George Nichopoulos.

In 1978, I represented Eugene McCarthy in the Chancery Court of Nashville, Tennessee, whereby the court ordered the State Election Commission to place his name on the ballot as an independent candidate for President of the United States.

Real Estate and Construction Law:

In my private practice, I have closed over thirty (30) residential loans. I have further put together building swaps and have even negotiated and handled the swapping of a downtown building for an Andrew Wyeth painting.

In 1978, I drafted the first set of condominium documents in the State of Tennessee applicable to the condominiumization of an old cotton warehouse into a mixed commercial and residential development. I further put together the financing package that included the National Bank of Commerce, Union Planters National Bank, and the Community Development Agency. (See Civic Activities -- Timpani Condominiums).

I negotiated and handled the purchase from the I.C. Railroad of a small portion of land on real estate located on Wagner that is presently called the Candy Factory. This parcel purchased from the Railroad was necessary for an emergency exit.

I negotiated and handled options, closings, financing, and renovation of ten (10) downtown properties such as the Cold Storage Building, presently housing the Pier Restaurant; the Carter Seed Store Building; Timpani

Condominiums; the Aldrich Condominiums; and three parcels in the Pinch Historic District.

I was involved in representing my family during Memphis Housing Authority condemnation proceedings on a piece of realty situated at Beale and Third.

I represented a group of investors that purchased, financed, and renovated a group of dilapidated apartments at the northwest corner of Bellevue and Jefferson called Heritage Square. This project also entailed the closing of an alley that required the negotiation with eighteen (18) adjoining property owners and their mortgagor. This further required City Council approval.

I have represented owners, contractors, architects, and materialmen in all phases of construction litigation, suits to enforce liens, lease drafting and negotiations, etc.

I have further represented landlords and tenants in all types of legal disputes.

#### Legal -- General:

Eleven of my thirteen years of practicing law were with Michael I. Less, who is acknowledged as the construction law expert in Memphis and in Tennessee.

I understand that part of my job will be to decide which legal disputes can be handled within the MHA office, and which cannot. Having had a broad range of legal experiences and knowing most firms, I am most qualified not only to decide which matters can be handled in-house versus being sent out, but I can negotiate fee arrangements that will be most advantageous to the MHA.

#### Ethics:

During my years of practice, I was never sued, nor was I ever reprimanded or sanctioned by any legal disciplinary board. I further believe that all of my peers will vouch for my honesty and legal capabilities.

### ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

Licensed to practice law in Tennessee in April 1974.

Admitted to practice before the Tennessee Supreme Court, United States Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, United States District Court in the Western District of Tennessee.

### CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Mayor's Advisory Commission on Transportation, 1993;

Memphis Interfaith Association; Chairman, Memphis Restaurant Association Feed the Needy Programs, 1992-93.

Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, Board of Directors, 1985 to present.

Board, Child Development Center, University of Tennessee, Division of Psychiatry, 1985-1989.

Member of first class of Leadership Memphis, 1979.

One of the five original organizers and attorney for Timpani Condominiums at 41 Union Avenue in Cotton Row. This project was the first to renovate an old cotton classing building into four residential and two commercial condominiums in downtown Memphis. This highly publicized project won several awards including the Memphis Heritage Award and the American Institute of Architects Award for Adaptive Re-Use (1978-79).

Vice Chairman, Shelby Farms Advisory Board; Board formed to advise county mayor on managing 4,500-acre Shelby County Penal Farm (1977-1985).

Chairman, Penal Farm for Public Use Committee: I was the original chairman and organizer of this committee that was formed by private citizens to prevent the Shelby County Penal Farm from being sold to private developers and to convert it into a public park (1971-74).

### POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Shelby County Campaign Chairman for Phil Bredesen's gubernatorial campaign, 1994.

Campaign Chairman for State Representative Pam Gaia, 1983.

Co-campaign Chairman for Judge Otis Higgs in 1979 Memphis mayoral runoff.

Unsuccessful City Council candidate, 1979; received both newspapers' endorsements but lost by 800 votes to 3-term incumbent.

Chairman for Charles Burson's campaign for County Commissioner in 1978. Charles is presently the State Attorney General.

### HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Over the last 15 years my wife and I have had the opportunity to spend over four months traveling extensively through Europe. I am fluent in Greek and have a good background in Spanish.

Besides travel, my hobbies include skiing, golf, and reading. My reading emphasis is generally in history with a particular interest in Russian history and politics.

### PERSONAL

Age <sup>47</sup>~~46~~, married for <sup>15</sup>~~14~~ years to Ellen B. Vergos; three children, Anna, born March 25, 1982; Katherine, born November 23, 1984; and Charles, born June 26, 1989.

REFERENCES

Lucius E. Burch, Jr.  
130 North Court  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
901-523-2311

Charles F. Newman  
130 North Court  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
901-523-2311

Robert F. Fogelman  
6455 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38119  
901-761-0900

John Paul Jones  
189 Jefferson  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
901-527-2482

Judge Harry W. Wellford  
1176 Federal Building  
167 North Main  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
901-544-3865

Michael McDonnell  
P.O. Box 3177  
Memphis, Tennessee 38173  
901-529-5700, ext. 224

John Boswell  
124 East 54th Street, Suite 8D  
New York, New York 10022  
212-753-9393

**MATA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
3 YEAR TERM**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>City</b>		<b>City</b>
<b>Birkholz, Karl</b> <i>(Reappointment)</i>	8560 Old Creek Road Memphis, TN 38125	<b>January 31, 2008</b>
<b>Carter, M.P.</b> <i>(Reappointment)</i>	176 Clower Road Memphis, TN 38109	<b>June 30, 2008</b>
<b>Johnson, Fred</b> <i>(Reappointment)</i>	8890 Bridlewood Lane Cordova, TN 38016	<b>August 31, 2008</b>
<b>McClendon, Marion L.</b>	8478 Tumbler Ridge Lane Memphis, TN 38125	<b>January 22, 2011</b>
<b>Pugh, Cliffie</b>	600 South Somerville, Apt.222 Memphis, TN 38104	<b>September 30, 2010</b>
<b>Vergos, John</b>	671 West Drive Memphis, TN 38112 Res: 901.323.9094	<b>June 30, 2012</b>