Item #: Prepared by: TaJuan Stout Mitchell
Administrator, Office of Intergovernmental Relations

RESOLUTION BY THE MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE 2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA WHICH INCLUDES JOINT PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY OF MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND REQUESTING THE SHELBY COUNTY DELEGATION TO SUPPORT, AND MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT, LEGISLATION AS PROPOSED BY THE 2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

WHEREAS, Shelby County Government and the City of Memphis entered into a joint process commencing in September 2010 for the purpose of developing legislative priorities for the Memphis and Shelby County community; and

WHEREAS, The process included discussions with numerous community organizations and partners, division meetings with both governments and various elected officials, and regular team meetings between the City and County representatives; and

WHEREAS, The legislative proposals have been grouped into two separate agendas, the first being a county-specific agenda which represents legislative requests or needs from various Elected Officials, a summary of which has been attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference and the second which represents joint priorities identified by the Mayors of the City of Memphis and Shelby County Government for the 2010 legislative session that are key issues directly impacting quality of life issues for the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, The legislative proposals within the Joint Agenda have been grouped and prioritized into the following categories: (1) economic development and job creation; (2) education and workforce development; (3) public safety and clean neighborhoods; and (4) healthy and sustainable communities, a summary of which has been attached as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, The Memphis City Council recognizes the effects of job shortages, lowering and/or loss of wages, and increasing poverty levels in its community and supports strategies that foster and boost economic growth such as providing: a more collaborative economic development system; improved incentives for the film, television, media and music industry; improved methods for administering the payment in lieu of taxes programs; protections to negotiate projects that ultimately increase employment opportunities; and assistance to municipalities to fund capital improvements for companies and capital needs of small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Memphis City Council recognizes that Memphis and Shelby County's children are its most valuable assets and supports strategies that ensure quality education programs are afforded to each student in Shelby County, and opportunities to achieve higher levels of learning that result in a ready workforce for the community; and

WHEREAS, The Memphis City Council recognizes the critical role public safety and clean neighborhoods play in growing strong, vibrant communities, as well as government's responsibility for making these issues a primary concern, and supports legislation and initiatives to reduce crime and blight such as the Operation Safe: Community plan, the proposal to allow enabling legislation for a land bank authority, and proposals that strengthen laws related to delinquent tax properties as well as the Neighborhood Preservation Act; and

WHEREAS, The Memphis City Council recognizes the value of key assets that promote healthy and sustainable communities and therefore, support policies and efforts to maintain or enhance funding mechanisms for the Regional Medical Center, Infant Mortality initiatives, and the Memphis Research Consortium initiative; and

WHEREAS, Memphis City Council recognize the value the critical role of redevelopment that the Health Education and Housing Facilities Board plays in creating affordable housing and rehab of properties for the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, to maintain a clean and livable city is a major goal of the City of Memphis and eliminating blight is critical in achieving that goal, amending the Tennessee Codes to make repeat violators of illegal dumping and aggravated criminal offense is needed to deter this environmental crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, That after careful consideration, the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Shelby County Government Legislative Package, which includes Joint Legislative Priorities of both Shelby County and the City of Memphis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Memphis City Council hereby requests the Shelby County Legislative Delegation to support and members of the Tennessee General Assembly to enact legislation supporting this Legislative Package.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Shelby County Legislative Delegation and the members of the Tennessee General Assembly are made aware of the request by copy of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Esquire A.C. Wharton, Jr., Mayor, City of Memphis

Date:

ATTEST:
Office of Comptroller