



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ed Stephens III, D.Min. Named to MATA Board of Commissioners
Stephens was sworn in by Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland today

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland today swore in Edward Stephens III, D.Min. as the newest Board Commissioner at the Memphis Area Transit Authority. The Memphis City Council approved his appointment at its August 18 meeting. Stephens succeeds outgoing MATA Board Commissioner Roquita Coleman.

"I'm incredibly grateful to Mayor Strickland and the Memphis City Council for appointing and confirming me as a MATA Board Commissioner," Stephens said. "It's a complete honor to serve the city that raised me. As this moment shows, black and brown communities are disproportionately affected by structural inequity. I hope that my role yields equitable outcomes for all commuters. In such a role, I hope to leverage local and national relationships to advocate for more funding for public transportation."

Stephens currently holds three professional roles in Memphis: as the Chief Operating Officer for the STAR Academy Charter School in Memphis, a college preparatory school serving inner-city students from kindergarten through sixth grade; as Community Pastor for Golden Gate Cathedral Church in Raleigh where he leads the ministry staff in establishing efforts that support the church's mission including building key community partnerships with organizations such as Shelby County Schools; and serving as the Principal and Chief Executive Officer for Memphis-based Goshen Hospice and Palliative Care which offers a myriad of skilled nursing, hospice education and care and palliative services to clients in Memphis and across the state.

Strickland said Stephens' experience is a good fit for MATA: "When I make Board appointments like most everything else we do with City government, I make them with an eye towards the future. Ed Stephens III is a part of that next generation of leaders that will help us implement the Memphis Transit Vision, and he will bring a new set of eyes to the MATA Board of Commissioners to help us do that."

MATA Chief Executive Officer Gary Rosenfeld agrees: "Ed's diverse civic leadership will be a beneficial resource to the MATA Board. We look forward to learning about his unique perspectives based on his experience serving the community and how we may be able to build upon some of those relationships as we continue to improve access to public transportation."

Stephens is a member of the Memphis Police Department Clergy Academy and is participating in the 2020 Leadership Memphis Executive Program. He is also a member of the Chairman's Circle of the Greater Memphis Chamber and has earned distinction as a "Top 40 Under 40 Urban Elite Professional" by the City of Memphis. Stephens received his Doctor of Ministry degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University and Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management/Economics from Fisk University, both located in Nashville, Tennessee.

About MATA

The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) is the public transportation provider for the Memphis area. As one of the largest transit operators in the state of Tennessee, MATA transports customers in the City of Memphis and parts of Shelby County on fixed-route buses, paratransit vehicles and vintage rail trolleys. For more information, visit www.matatransit.com.

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