

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 247

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Paul Young upon being named president and chief executive officer of the Downtown Memphis Commission.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Paul Young, who was recently named president and chief executive officer of the Downtown Memphis Commission; and

WHEREAS, a native Memphian who has devoted the majority of his career to serving his hometown, Mr. Young looks forward to helping Downtown recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and fostering more opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses as future development occurs; and

WHEREAS, Paul Young holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and a Master of City and Regional Planning and Master of Science in Business Administration, Finance and Real Estate, from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, from January 2016 until taking his post with the Downtown Memphis Commission, Mr. Young served as director for the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, in this capacity, he facilitated public-private partnerships for the redevelopment of major projects, including Historic Melrose, Tillman Cove, and Raleigh Springs Civic Center; coordinated the redevelopment of the Memphis Fairgrounds; oversaw the Downtown Tourism Development Zone; coordinated the city's \$30 million capital investment in

the South City Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant; developed and oversaw the Memphis Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and coordinated the development of a new weatherization program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Young's previous experience includes serving as director of legislative affairs for the mayor of Memphis, administrator with the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability, legislative liaison for the Shelby County Government, financial analyst for Community Capital of Memphis, assistant program officer of the Organizational Development Initiative for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation in New York, New York, and senior planner in the Comprehensive Planning Office of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development; and

WHEREAS, a respected leader in his field, Paul Young currently serves as co-chair of the Memphis-Shelby County Joint COVID Task Force, board chair of the Urban Land Institute, a board member of Shelby Farms Park Conservancy, and a member of the Board of Trustees of LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, he previously held membership with the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy board, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, and the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Young has received many honors and recognitions for his good work over the years, including the 2020 Spark Award; he has been named a Top 40 Under 40 Urban Elite and included in the *Memphis Business Journal's* 40 Under 40, and he has been a Fellow of the American Swiss Foundation, the American League of Cities, the Delta Leadership Institute, and New Memphis Institute's Leadership Academy; and

WHEREAS, Paul Young's proven leadership skills, commitment to consensus building throughout the community, and personal dedication to building a stronger Memphis will benefit Downtown and all Memphians in a way that few others could; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Young epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Paul Young for his dedication to serving the people of the Bluff City and this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Paul Young upon being named president and chief executive officer of the Downtown Memphis Commission, extending our sincere gratitude for his many years of service and our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.