



**METRO NASHVILLE  
COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT**

May 31, 2022

Dear Nashville Community,

On behalf of the Community Oversight Board, I am writing this open letter to the community as a follow-up on the intense discussion that occurred at our 5/25/2022 Board Meeting, pertaining to **our Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget request not yet being fully funded**. The Board voiced the need for the community and stakeholders to be informed on the status of our budget request.

Over the years there has been a significant increase in the requested services and responsibilities of the Community Oversight Board staff, therefore, we requested nine new staff positions during this budget cycle. The Board considers most or all of the requested positions as being critical to the viability of the Community Oversight Board, however, **only four of the nine** requested positions made it into the mayor's recommended budget.

The mayor's proposed budget is now in the hands of the Metropolitan Nashville Council who is allowed to and almost always revise the mayor's recommended budget before final approval. **It is still possible for the Metro Council to intercede and increase the number of positions that will be awarded to the Community Oversight Board staff.**

To date the MNCO Executive Director and I have had productive discussions with three Council Members, including the Budget Chair, so we remain hopeful that we will get the resources that we need.

If the Metro Council sees fit to provide the critical positions needed, we see it as a vote of confidence in the Nashville citizens that overwhelmingly voted to form the Community Oversight Board. More importantly providing the needed resources to the COB respects the enormous sacrifices made to form the Board.

Sincerely,

Arnold G. Hayes  
Chair, Community Oversight Board