

BRENT TAYLOR
STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 31
SHELBY COUNTY



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November 28, 2023

Michelle Long
Administrative Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
511 Vine Street, Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Michelle:

As a senator for Shelby County and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am writing your agency to bring attention to the circumstances surrounding the release of Edio White, who is charged with 1st Degree Murder in Shelby County for a murder committed on November 23, 2023. Defendant White was subsequently released on his own recognizance by General Sessions Judge Bill Anderson. The District Attorney had requested bail of \$75,000 and enrollment in Memphis Allies program administered by Youth Villages.

What is disturbing about this specific case is that Judge Anderson on September 18, 2023, in his testimony before the Shelby County Commission stated he "detest[s] the bail system in Shelby County," and he "detest[s] the bail system in the state of Tennessee." Moreover, he further testified that bail companies only "collect money from poor people." By assuming our bail system simply "collects money from poor people," Judge Anderson gravely misunderstands the important role bail plays in Tennessee's criminal justice system.

My concern is Judge Anderson's animus toward the bail system has put my constituents in Shelby County in more danger. Not only do I feel his contempt for the bail system influenced his decisions, but as the supervising judge over the judicial commissioner program in Shelby County, his influence is corrupting the judicial commissioners' bail decisions too which is evidenced by continued setting of low bail amounts.

Michelle Long
Page Two
November 28, 2023

I will forward video evidence via email of Judge Anderson's testimony before the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

Thank you in advance for considering my request. I also want to thank you for your part to ensure our judicial system is fair and impartial.

As always, if there are any questions surrounding this request, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Senator Brent Taylor
District 31

cc: Lt. Governor Randy McNally
Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton
Senate Judiciary Chairman Todd Gardenhire