Members of prominent civic groups, including the Nashville Rotary Club and the Economic Club of Nashville, were eager to ask the VIP keynote guest about state lawmakers’ plans to shrink the Metro Council in half during the week of Jan. 23. Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton, a Republican from Crossville, wields enormous influence in his legislative chamber led by a GOP supermajority. He told audience members that the General Assembly has free rein to insert itself into the affairs of the capital city, which votes overwhelmingly Democrat-ic. It is correct that the counties and cities are extensions of and allowed to function at the will of the state.

Meanwhile, city leaders are sweating. Metro Nashville Law Director Wallace Dietz said the proposal to reduce the council’s size from 40 to 20 seats would cause “chaos.” This would undermine 60 years of a metropolitan city-county government that Tennessee can cancel Nashville, but here’s why lawmakers shouldn’t

Contact them

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What Memphis can learn from the brutal death of Tyre Nichols

Amber Sherman speaks as protesters gather Jan. 27 in Memphis prior to the release of police video depicting five Memphis officers beating Tyre Nichols, whose death three days later resulted in murder charges and provoked outrage at the country’s latest instance of police brutality.

The death of Tyre Nichols after being beaten by Memphis police officers is sinister, sickening and sad. Making it even worse is that the offending officers are African Americans. The victim is Black, and the offenders are Black.

Many of us in Memphis and across the nation are grieving, and will continue to grieve for months, some for years.

The unarmed 29-year-old father, son and brother was tasered, pepper-sprayed, beaten, kicked and pummeled with fists by police during a traffic stop. He finally was taken to a hospital in critical condition and died of his injuries three days later.

Initially five policemen were put on leave, then fired, indicted, arrested and charged with seven crimes, including second-degree murder and aggravated assault. I was shocked when the faces of the involved officers were flashed on the television screen. Like many, I assumed this was yet another case of white cops killing an innocent Black man.

Systemic racism at root of police misconduct, no matter officer’s race

Lynn Norment Guest columnist

INSIDE: Perspectives: The killing of Tyre Nichols. Black Tennessee Voices, SN
Tennessee Senate Majority Leader John Johnson said his bill HB 648 to stop funding police would be a "war with Russia." He added, "I'm sure most Americans would like to see Russian forces driven out of Ukraine."

Johnson's bill, which was approved by the state Senate on Tuesday, would ban the state from providing any funding to police departments. The bill would also allow the state to "check out" police officers who were previously accused of misconduct.

"I have no problem with anyone needing police protection," Johnson said. "I think we have to be able to hold police officers accountable when they make mistakes."
Activist Avi Poster was a man of shoulders and my children's lives, which research shows are the most critical for brain development and bonding. As a military child, I have seen many families - both active duty and resources that many military families need today. We have to make it available or how to access it. There were the days before we could play video games and apps for unlimited messaging. Connection was dependent on physical mail and the occasional, phone call. But the most important thing we had was the connection with loved ones over phone. We had a two-year annual trip to Europe, and sometimes he would come to "Dean At Home." He always loved our family and our home. When we "Dean At Home," I know that they would be: "Thank you for being my friends."

Avi. "I immediately wanted to be friends with Avi and invited him to our house."

Avi had been a teacher and principal for many years. He was known for his kindness and his love for his students. He was especially known for his compassion towards military children. He was the kind of character you would want to know each other. "Lion King" and the other books he read with us were always a family favorite. We didn't know what the world would be like if Avi hadn't been there for us.

We didn't know what life would be like if Avi hadn't been there for us. He was always there for us, reminding us of our loved ones. Service members can read the donated books aloud while being privately recorded with the United Through Reading App, and the books and videos will be sent to their families stationed on military bases.

There are nearly 38,000 active duty, Guard, and Reserve military children in Tennessee, making it the 12th largest military child state in the country.

The Professional Counselor's review of military children's books and their impact on the military community.

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