



P.O. Box 331144
Nashville, TN 37203
<http://www.noah.tn.org/>
(615) 905-6624

Selected NOAH Accomplishments 2016 - 2023

1. 2016-2017: Body Camera Commitments

NOAH gained Mayor Barry's original public commitment to implement body and dash cameras throughout Metro Nashville Police Dept; Pushed Metro Council to approve original budget allocations for body cameras and dash cameras. <http://bit.ly/cam-police>



2. 2016-2018: Mental Health Diversion from Jail

NOAH pushed for mental health diversion from jail with the Mayor, Metro Council, Metro Health Department, and mental health advocates state-wide, winning \$3.5 million for a new Nashville diversion center.

3. 2018: “No suspension policy” for elementary students

The policy change was a way to break the “school-to-prison pipeline,” especially for black and brown children in Metro Nashville Public Schools. <http://bit.ly/elem-policy>

4. 2016-2020: NOAH increased resources for affordable housing

NOAH's work led to increased funding from Mayor and Metro Council to Barnes Affordable Housing Trust Fund (\$45 million over 5 years). In the 2019 budget crisis, the Mayor cut \$5 million from the Barnes Fund. NOAH held a demonstration of 100 people, showing the critical need. <http://bit.ly/barnes-cuts>



5. 2018-2020: Affordable Housing Experts to MDHA Board

At NOAH's urging, Mayors appointed 3 affordable housing experts, including 2 NOAH leaders, to the board of Metro Development and Housing Agency. MDHA manages public housing, as well as downtown and neighborhood development – but needs a renewed focus on housing. <http://bit.ly/mdha-bowers>
<http://bit.ly/mdha-paulette>

6. 2018: Community Benefits Agreement Won

As part of the Stand Up Nashville Coalition, NOAH won a Community Benefits Agreement on proposed soccer stadium, 20% of related housing to be affordable, stadium employees to start at \$15.50/hr, “High Road Contractors” hiring from poverty areas, and a sliding scale child care center. <http://bit.ly/mls-cba>

7. 2019: Public Commitments from Mayor Candidates

All 8 candidates for Mayor committed to work with NOAH on Affordable Housing, Education, Criminal Justice, and Economic Equity & Jobs at a public meeting of 600. <http://bit.ly/candidates-hsng> Later, Run-Off Candidates Briley and Cooper, pledged to work with NOAH. Each claimed to be the best to address lack of wages & affordable housing. <http://bit.ly/briley-cooper>



8. 2020: NOAH Advocated for Larger Metro Budget

With \$10 million in Barnes Housing Fund, as well as more money for schools and other needs.

9. May-June 2020: NOAH Organized for Seniors

In face of a 34% property tax increase, NOAH organized publicity on existing senior property tax assistance programs (3 TV stories, 8000 Facebook contacts, 3000 emails, contacts with agencies and NOAH congregations).



10. June-July 2020: NOAH held 4 powerful Candidate Meetings for School Board

NOAH highlighted our issues (especially racial disparity in suspensions) and gaining commitments from all candidates to work with NOAH. <https://bit.ly/dist-1> <https://bit.ly/dist-3> <https://bit.ly/dist-5-7> <https://bit.ly/dist-9>

11. July 2020: CARES Funding for Rent Assistance

NOAH's Affordable Housing Task Force pressured a Mayor's committee and the Metro Council to use federal CARES Act funding for rental assistance and for those affected by the COVID-19 economic crisis. An initial commitment of \$10 million was made for rental assistance, mortgage help, and emergency support.

12. October 2020: Over 700 people joined in NOAH's virtual Public Meeting, "The Fierce Urgency of Now!"

Mayor John Cooper and representatives of Metro Police, Metro Schools, and Metro Council committed to work with us on our issues. Two candidates for state legislature pledged to work with NOAH. <https://bit.ly/oct25-mtg>

13. December 2020: "Public Lamentation" for COVID and State Inaction

NOAH leaders created thousands of stars to memorialize the 6000 Tennesseans who had died of COVID (as of Dec). The group also called on Governor Lee to implement a mask mandate and to release \$741 million in federal funds for eviction prevention. <https://bit.ly/mask-tanf>



14. January 2021: NOAH Leaders on Mayor's Housing Task Force

As he committed in the NOAH October meeting, Mayor Cooper created a Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force, including 3 NOAH leaders, meeting weekly to May on a plan for affordable housing in Nashville. <http://bit.ly/mayor-ahtf>

15. March 2021: NOAH Called for Changes in Police Policy

Two people had been shot by police, with one death. NOAH focused on its proposed HEALS program, which would send mental health workers on mental health calls, instead of police. <http://bit.ly/mar-18>

16. March-June 2021: NOAH challenged Mayor and Council to develop a “Moral Budget.”

- 65 people met with key Metro Council Members on housing needs.
- The Mayor’s Affordable Housing Task Force report included several NOAH priorities. <https://bit.ly/tf-rec>
- In April, NOAH held a Press Conference on funding needed for Social Emotional Learning to stop the “school-to-prison pipeline.” <https://bit.ly/noah-sel>
- In May, 160 people attended our “Moral Budget Town Hall,” organizing to contact Metro Council, winning:
 - a) \$22.5 million for the Barnes Affordable Housing Trust Fund; two new housing staff; \$500,000 for a real plan.
 - b) \$3.7 million to develop Social Emotional Learning “Advocacy Centers” in 72 elementary schools to reduce suspensions and break the “school-to-prison pipeline.”



17. August 2021: “Day of Power and Prayer for Education” – Rally for education funding.

The state-wide rally included MICAH in Memphis and CALEB in Chattanooga, laying groundwork for changes in the Basic Education Program, which funds school systems.

18. October 2021: NOAH holds virtual Annual Meeting, called “Thriving, Not Just Surviving.”

Over 400 people heard commitments from the Mayor, Metro School Board chair, and others on housing, education, criminal justice, and jobs. <https://bit.ly/noah-oct17>

19. December 2021: NOAH holds “Education Town Hall”

Six NOAH leaders spoke to TN Education Commissioner on need for a “bigger pie” of state funding for teacher pay; technology; social emotional learning. NOAH delivered a pecan pie to the Commissioner. <https://bit.ly/educ-pie>



20. December 2021: NOAH Wins \$40 million for Affordable Housing

NOAH worked with Council Member Colby Sledge in getting an additional \$40 million for affordable housing from American Rescue Plan, including money for the Barnes Fund and the Catalyst Fund. <https://bit.ly/noah-arp>

21. January – June 2022: NOAH leaders serve on Mayor’s Affordable Housing Task Force

Three NOAH leaders met weekly with this task force for 5 months, as well as strategizing outside the meetings. In June, nine major recommendations were released, which included NOAH’s housing priorities. <https://bit.ly/mayor-ahtf>

22. January – June 2022: NOAH leaders organize on new state funding proposal for education.

Meetings were held with state legislators, the governor’s office, and various education advocacy groups. The new funding plan, TISA, was passed by the legislature, even though it results in lower state funding for Nashville public schools. NOAH linked with sister organizations in Memphis (MICAH) and Chattanooga (CALEB) to influence the funding amounts. <https://bit.ly/noah-tisa>

23. February 2022: Webinar with CAHOOTS from Eugene, Oregon

CAHOOTS is nationally known as a non-law enforcement response to mental health crises and was the model for NOAH’s “HEALS” proposal, almost funded last year by Metro government. Instead, the city implemented a “co-response” model with police and mental health professionals. NOAH believes that we need a non-law enforcement response. This CAHOOTS webinar drew 139 people, including 9 Metro Council Members and was the beginning of our push for funding this year. In January, Landon Eastep, suffering a mental health episode and holding a box cutter, had been riddled with bullets by nine police officers. <https://bit.ly/cahoots-web>

24. February – April 2022: Webinars with Candidates for Criminal Court and General Sessions Judges

Judicial elections are very low turnout, since people do not understand the role of judges and the DA – or the related issues. In February, 209 people attended our webinar on the Role of Judges. Five webinars with candidates for judge and DA then drew a total of 627 people. All candidates attending were asked questions about bail and other issues important to NOAH and they committed to meet with NOAH regularly.

<https://bit.ly/judges-role>

25. March - April 2022: Meeting with Metro Council Members on affordable housing issues, including NCOAHs

NOAHs partnered with AgeWell as well as an immigrant organization and a homeless services group to develop an affordable housing platform. The platform stated key facts about our crisis and laid out specific recommendations with several coming from the [Mayor's Task Force report](#). 10 Metro Council Members and 44 others heard from a teacher, school support staff, and someone being

displaced from their apartment building. NOAH leaders committed to pressuring the entire Council for this platform (40 members).

<https://bit.ly/ahtf-council>

26. Jan-June 2022: NOAH organizes for affordable units at Riverchase Apartments

Beginning in 2019, NOAH organized for affordable units as the 212 unit complex was sold for redevelopment. NOAH's meetings with the area Metro Council Member, Metro Planning Commission, and neighborhood residents led to a verbal [agreement with the owner](#). In 2021, the complex was sold to a new owner. Meetings with the owner were held for months, involving NOAH and other non-profits. NOAH provided expert advice in affordable housing, HUD rules, and income limits. NOAH and other non-profits spent days canvassing residents, holding press conferences, and engaging in intense negotiations. Finally, the owner refused to lower the income limits to make housing “attainable” instead of deceptively labeled “affordable.” Next steps are now being planned. <https://bit.ly/riverchase-noah>

27. 2020-2022: NOAH builds a state-wide network with two sister organizations

The Tennessee State legislature has “pre-empted” successes of NOAH and our Metro Council. NOAH encouraged other cities to form similar organizations. NOAH is an affiliate of the Gamaliel Network, which helped form MICAH (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope) and CALEB (Chattanoogans in Action for Love, Equality and Benevolence). MICAH and CALEB took on their own local issues, and they have linked with NOAH as we form a state-wide network to deal with our state legislature. The network has focused on issues of education, criminal justice, and housing. We are now exploring ways to expand into smaller cities and more suburban/rural areas.



28. February – June, 2023: In 2023, NOAH holds a Listening Campaign - our members selected four issue areas, reaffirming our previous task force interests - Affordable Housing, Criminal Justice, Education and Economic Equity and Jobs as well as adding Transportation. During the remainder of 2023 and the next 3-4 years, NOAH will pursue issue campaigns around our selected issue areas.

29. July 2023: With a turn-out of 800, NOAH holds the largest Candidates’ forum for nine of the eleven Mayoral candidates. NOAH leaders pose questions around our commitment to addressing systemic racism in all of our work as well questions about our key issues. NOAH receives a commitment from all candidates to meet with NOAH leaders on a quarterly basis throughout their term in office.

30. August 27, 2023: The same leaders who organized the July Candidates’ forum will hold a Run-Off candidates’ Public Meeting for the mayoral and at-large candidates. Once again, we ask Nashville’s next mayor and at-large Metro Council members to build the community all Nashvillians deserve in relationship with our organization.