FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Davidson County General Sessions Court Judges Name Freda Player as New General Sessions Court Administrator

November 13, 2026

The judges of the Davidson County General Sessions Court have selected Freda Player to serve as the Court's next Administrator. A veteran public servant with more than 25 years of experience in government, public policy, labor relations, and organizational leadership, Player has accepted the position and will begin November 16.

Player's selection follows a competitive process that drew a strong field of applicants, including experienced state and local government officials from across the country. She succeeds Kyle Sowell, who retired in September.

"We had a very impressive group of applicants, and we appreciate each and every one of them who took the time to express their interest in serving the Court," said Presiding Judge Marcus Floyd. "After weeks of review and careful deliberation, the judges selected Freda because of the depth of her leadership experience, her understanding of government, and her ability to work with people across different organizations and backgrounds. We believe she brings the leadership and judgment this position requires, and we are pleased to welcome her aboard."

Player serves as a member of the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education, where she has held leadership positions including Board Chair and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. She previously served as Senior Legislative Advisor in the Nashville Mayor's Office. While there she worked with Metro departments, the Metropolitan Council, and state legislators on legislation, budgets, and government operations. She also served as Political Director of Service Employees International Union Local 205, overseeing statewide programs and working on employee advocacy, government relations, and organizational management. Her career also includes service as Executive Director of Emerge Tennessee.

As Court Administrator, Player will oversee the Court's administrative operations and work with its eleven judges on matters involving personnel, resources, and coordination with other government agencies.

"From the judges on the bench to our probation officers to our teachers for traffic school, every General Sessions Court employee will be singularly focused on the people we serve. We have to be fair, transparent, and accountable to the public. The Judges will make sure that happens in our courtrooms and Freda will make sure it happens throughout the courthouse."

“We know people come to court, General Sessions Court especially, for many different reasons, and during some of the most difficult moments of their lives,” Player stated. “They should be able to understand where they need to go, what they are expected to do once they get there, and how to access the services they need. They should be treated with respect, and they should have confidence that the administration is operating competently and responsibly.”

“I completely agree..” Floyd added, “and those are not things we accomplish by just saying the right words. They require attention to detail... how we communicate, how we make decisions, how we manage our resources, and how we support the people doing this work every day. We have a responsibility to get those things right, and that is the standard we brought Freda in to help us uphold.”

Player earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Fisk University, graduating magna cum laude, and a master’s degree from George Washington University’s Graduate School of Political Management.

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