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**Sent:** 7/12/23 4:13 PM

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**Subject:** Dive Team information

Good afternoon,

If I have left anyone out of this message, I apologize. I made a request months ago for MyTec to allow an option for us to create groupings, but that has not happened yet. So everyone has to be entered manually, therefore, if you see someone I have missed on the County Board, please forward this to them.

My apologies for any delays in communication today. I have been working on this issue non stop since the early morning. Good news travels fast, bad news travels faster.

Over the past few weeks of being on the Dive Team committee, it has been brought to light that there lacks any type of official formation documentation for the Dive Team, officially referred to as Shelby County Dive Team. While that in and of itself, presented a significant problem, it wasn't until this morning that it was officially declared that due to lack of proper formation, there is NO department, and BECAUSE myself, the Dive Committee along with other county board members who have been helping resolve this; are now fully aware there are no formation documentation: the issue is quite simple. There is no Dive Team, and as such, there is no insurance coverage for any of the members of the team should they be injured, nor is the county shielded by insurance, from any outside litigation should an injury of any type occur. Diving, rapid water rescue, and all of the other types of water rescue performed by the team is an extremely dangerous activity. Knowingly allowing county resources to be used to allow uninsured individuals to continue in this act would be grossly negligent on my part, and any member of this public body that knew it. And since the "cat is out of the bag"--You all know it now too.

So, as the chairman of the Dive team, being properly appointed by the board chairman and confirmed by the full board, The dive team was informed they will need to cease any and all operations until further notice.

The further notice is where we come in.

I will be working with the Legislative committee in the coming days to draft a resolution that not only properly forms the Dive Team, but establishes a working structure for them, and for future boards. At that point, my understanding is that insurance can be restored and Dive may resume their activities. Below is a copy of the official statement that was sent to reporters, and Again I apologize if anyone felt left in the dark....things escalated very quickly today and I have been engaged in this problem since I woke up.

Copy of press release>

Immediate Release: July 12, 2023

Shelby County Dive Team Chairman, Sonny Ross

Shelby County Dive Team has been operating under an assumed structure since 1997. It was recently brought to my attention that there were no formal establishment documentation or structure created when it began operating. As Chairman of that committee I sought to clarify its

establishment to ensure their safety and protect the county citizens as they provide the equipment used by the Dive Team.

In doing so, it was discovered there is no insurance coverage for the Dive team. This lack of coverage jeopardizes each member toward great loss. We as a community should not be willing to accept this risk.

As such, it has been determined the Dive Team shall cease operations immediately until proper formation documents are created and insurance needs are fulfilled and put into place. I anticipate full cooperation from the team, committees, county board members and the greater Shelby County community to correct this oversight that has been upon us since before my involvement.

Now is the time for us all to right the wrongs and ensure every team member, as well as the citizen of Shelby County are protected before returning to proper training and function. Every team member deserves our support and every citizen deserves our accountability. Thank you for the opportunity to correct this issue for the benefit of the Dive Team and Shelby County.

Sonny Ross  
Chairman of Dive Committee  
Shelby County Board