

Jill M. Fitchard

Jill Fitchard serves as Executive Director of the Nashville Community Review Board, a position she was appointed to by the Mayor in October 2023. Her appointment built upon four years of leadership in the same role as the Metro Nashville Community Oversight Board, where she served from 2019 to 2023. Across both tenures, she has been a tireless champion for accountability, transparency, and community-centered oversight of the Metro Nashville Police Department — navigating complex political headwinds, including a state preemption law that changed civilian oversight in Tennessee, while ensuring Nashville residents retain a meaningful voice in public safety governance.

Ms. Fitchard's career reflects a deep and sustained commitment to justice, equity, and compassion for the city's most vulnerable populations. She began her professional journey as a Police Officer with the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., before returning to Tennessee to build a multifaceted career in criminal justice and community service. Through the YWCA, she facilitated a pre-release life skills program for incarcerated women at the Tennessee Prison for Women, helping participants prepare for parole and successful reintegration. As a Probation and Parole Officer for the State of Tennessee, she was instrumental in assisting with a pilot program specifically designed to reduce recidivism among formerly incarcerated women — a model grounded in rehabilitation and second chances.

Her expertise extended into education, where she served as a Criminal Justice Instructor at Remington College, equipping the next generation of practitioners with real-world knowledge of the legal system. Before joining the oversight community, Ms. Fitchard spent more than a decade as Chief Criminal Investigator with the Metro Nashville Public Defender's Office, leading high-profile investigations and playing an integral role in the office's senior leadership.

A graduate of Tennessee State University, Ms. Fitchard brings comprehensive knowledge of the criminal justice system, investigative practice, and community engagement to her work. She is a Certified Practitioner of Police Oversight and serves as a Board Member at Large for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), a distinction that reflects both her professional expertise and her national standing in the field of civilian oversight. She is also an active member of several professional organizations dedicated to the advancement of public safety and community well-being.