



Dear Neighbor,

I'm very pleased to report that the legislation I sponsored (House bill 100) to authorize a special license plate to promote public awareness of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum here in Kansas City and to raise funds for Museum operations is scheduled for a hearing at **5 p.m. Wednesday, February 17, before the House Transportation Committee.**

Vehicle owners may apply for the special plates after making a \$10 contribution to the Museum. There is a \$15 fee in addition to the regular registration fees for each set of specialized plates which will include the Museum's logo and the words NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM.

I originally introduced this legislation last year and amended its provisions on another bill that passed both the House and Senate, but that bill died when the Senate reconsidered and killed it after some senators discovered language in another amendment to the bill they objected to.

Representatives Rasheen Aldridge, LaDonna Appelbaum, Jerome Barnes and Michael Johnson have all co-sponsored this legislation which I hope will be passed as a consent bill.

Senator Barbara Anne Washington has introduced the same legislation in the Senate. It was recommended for passage as a consent bill by the Senate Progress & Development Committee this

week and is awaiting action by the full Senate.

If anyone would care to support this bill that gives long overdue recognition to one of our city's major cultural attractions that tells an important but often forgotten story from our nation's history about overcoming barriers and adversity, please consider submitting testimony online in support of the bill's passage before Wednesday's hearing.

Anyone interested can go to www.house.mo.gov and go to Hearings in Progress in the middle of the page and then click on Submit Testimony. On the witness form, under Hearing select Transportation – 2/17/2021, then click on HB 100, then Individual, then In Support Of, and then fill in your statement, complete the rest of the form and submit.

Please scroll down in this newsletter and read the press release about Gov. Mike Parson signing House Committee Substitute for House Bill 16 into law which appropriates \$324.7 million in federal stimulus funds for the Missouri Housing Development Commission for an emergency rental assistance program that will benefit both landlords and tenants and also can cover utility bills.

I was pleased to vote for this much-needed legislation which passed the House and Senate without opposition.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide, [Kaylee Bauer](#) is ready to help you.

Please note my new Capitol office at the end of the newsletter which will be much more accessible to mobility-limited visitors than my previous office. My office phone number remains the same.

Please scroll down to read about other state government matters and important upcoming local events.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and family who might want to know the latest news about what is happening in state

government and about important local events. Be safe and God bless!

Yours in Service,
Mark A. Sharp

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, February 12, 2021

INITIATIVE PETITION RESTRICTIONS PUSHED

The House Elections and Elected Officials Committee on Feb. 10 considered 11 measures that would make it more difficult for Missourians to amend the state constitution or use the initiative petition process to enact laws independently of the legislature.

The initiative petition process has been used in recent years to enact Medicaid expansion, increase the state minimum wage and impose legislative ethics reform.

Three proposed constitutional amendments considered by the committee would increase the number of signatures required to put imitative measures on the ballot, while a statutory change would impose a minimum \$500 fee to submit an initiative petition.

Throughout Missouri history, only a simple majority has been required

to amend the state constitution.

Seven proposed constitutional amendments would raise the bar for ratification to a super-majority, with some calling for a three-fifths majority and others a two-thirds majority. Some of the proposals would allow constitutional amendments proposed by lawmakers to still be ratified with simple majorities but require a two-thirds majority for amendments put on the ballot through the initiative petition.

The committee didn't take immediate action on any of the measures following the 4 ½ -hour hearing, but is expected to vote on at least some of them at its next meeting. Any constitutional changes would require voter approval.

INTERNET SALES TAX COLLECTION CONSIDERED

The House Ways and Means Committee on Feb. 10 heard three bills that would allow the state and local governments to capture sales tax revenue from online purchases that already is due under state law but is difficult to collect unless out of state vendors voluntarily submit it.

A 2018 U.S. Supreme Court case, *South Dakota v. Wayfair Inc.*, clarified that state and local governments can levy taxes on purchases made by their residents from businesses located elsewhere.

Missouri business owners have long maintained that not collecting taxes on online sales puts their brick-and-mortar operations at a competitive disadvantage, while local officials lament the significant loss in tax revenue.

The bills all take different approaches on whether income tax rates should be cut, and if so by how much, to make the net effect of collecting taxes on internet sales revenue-neutral for the state, or whether the state should take advantage of this opportunity to increase revenue to pay for needed and underfunded state services.

BIPARTISAN EFFORT ON OVERPAYMENTS

A House committee on Feb. 10 heard a bipartisan collection of bills seeking to block the Missouri Department of Labor & Industrial Relations from clawing back as much as \$150 million in excess unemployment payments it made to an estimated 46,000 Missourians who lost their jobs in the past year due to the pandemic.

The department has admitted that 97.7% of the overpayments did not involve fraud and instead resulted from mistakes made by the department. The overpayments largely came from federal pandemic funds, and the Federal Department of Labor has authorized states to waive repayment from people who, through no fault of their own, received benefits they shouldn't have.

Most of the bills before the committee would prohibit the department from seeking repayment from those who acted in good faith. Those who acted fraudulently would still have to repay the money and face potential penalties.

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2021

Governor Parson Signs HB 16 Into Law

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – Today, Governor Mike Parson signed HB 16 into law, which provides more than \$324 million in funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

“HB 16 will provide much needed assistance to tenants and landlords across the state. COVID-19’s economic impacts have created hard times for many Missourians, and we are happy to provide this immediate relief,” **Governor Parson** said. “I applaud the work of the General Assembly, House Budget Chair Cody Smith, and Senate Appropriations Chair Dan Hegeman for their work in getting this legislation across the finish line for the people of Missouri.”

The ERAP was passed by Congress in December 2020. The program's passage made funding available to state and local governments to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program includes up to 12 months of assistance for rental arrears, forward rental assistance, utility arrears, and utility forward assistance. Utility assistance includes electricity, gas, water and sewer, trash removal, and certain energy costs.

Both landlords and tenants are eligible to apply for assistance through the program. More information regarding the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) can be found on the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s website.

The Missouri Housing Development Commission will administer the ERAP in Missouri. Additional information and the application portal can be found at www.mohousingresources.com.



News from the
City Communications Office

City of Kansas City, Missouri
kcmo.gov

No reduction in essential services result from pandemic-induced financial crisis

City Council receives \$1.73 billion proposed budget

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 11, 2021

Mayor Quinton Lucas and City Manager Brian Platt on Thursday submitted to the City Council a fiscal year 2021-2022 budget that addresses a \$70 million shortfall without staff layoffs or furloughs while maintaining essential city services and even investing additional resources in key areas.

The financial crisis spawned by the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the \$1.73 billion submitted budget amount, which is \$36.8 million less than the 2020-2021 Adopted Budget. Still, we have included targeted investments in priority areas like:

- Street resurfacing
- Expanded snow removal operations
- Improving equity to help build a more inclusive workplace by hiring our first Chief Equity Officer and additional staff to both expand

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- professional development and employee training as well as to improve accountability and transparency within Human Resources
 - Creation of our first Transportation Director and other resources to help us aggressively redesign our streets to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries

“In preparing arguably one of the most challenging municipal budgets of our lifetime, we thoroughly reviewed every single service we provide, every third party contract and agreement, and every resource we allocate to find unique and innovative ways to reduce costs with no impact to essential city services” Platt said. “We had a lot of tough decisions to make but I look forward to working with the city council and residents to continue discussions on how to best prioritize our spending in the wake of the COVID-19 budget crisis.”

The proposed budget closes the budget shortfall with strategic and surgical cuts and adjustments, which include:

- Transitioning to “in-house” waste removal and leaf and brush collection services
- Negotiating reductions in healthcare costs for the city and auditing existing coverage to ensure cost effectiveness
- Converting streetlights to lower cost, energy-efficient LED lights
- Hiring and salary freezes for some positions
- Right-sizing the KCPD budget to match current staffing and consolidating services to improve efficiencies
- Voluntary retirement incentive
- Sale of unused city property
- Refinancing debt
- Reducing contracts with outside vendors including security guards, jail contracts, and lobbyists
- Identifying new ways to increase revenue collections through EMS, courts, and tax offices
- Closing the Hale Arena, which costs the city \$1.7 million a year to maintain

“As a child of a long-time government employee, I know that taking care of the people who keep this city running each day is one of the most important things we can do,” Mayor Lucas said. “That’s why it was essential to me that no City employees will be laid off due to budgetary concerns. No public works staff, no parks and recreation staff, no fire fighters or EMS, and no one in the Kansas City Police Department — despite what you’ve perhaps previously heard. No officers will need to lose their jobs due to budget cuts, and no stations need be closed. Instead we will right-size budgets in all our departments, eliminating wasteful spending, leaving most currently vacant positions unfilled.

“Every day, 7,000 people go to work for this great city and we will not leave them behind, even at this challenging time.”

The Submitted Budget focuses on funding public safety, capital improvements and transportation – priorities reflected in the Annual Resident Survey.

The budget [transmittal letter](#) is available online, along with the [entire proposed budget](#). Elected officials and city staff want your feedback, so please make plans to attend at least one of our citywide [budget hearings](#):

- Saturday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m.- Noon (Virtual)
- Saturday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m. - Noon; Municipal Arena, 301 W. 13th St.
- Tuesday, March 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Virtual)

For budget information, visit kcmo.gov/budget and follow us on Twitter @KCMO and the Budget Office @KCMOBudget.

MAYOR

Quinton Lucas

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 10, 2021

Contact: [Morgan Said](#) | 816-385-3464

Mayor Lucas Delivers State of the City Address

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas today delivered his second State of the City Address to the Kansas City Council and to Kansas Citians virtually due to COVID-19 at Winnetonka High School, where he previewed the Kansas City Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, Kansas City’s continued COVID-19 vaccination and recovery efforts, and priorities for the year ahead.

The FY21-22 Budget will be formally presented to the City Council tomorrow, February 11, during Business Session at 1 p.m., followed by several public budget hearings to provide Kansas Citians an opportunity to weigh in on how their taxpayer dollars are being spent.

Regarding Kansas City’s budget, Mayor Lucas said:

“Like many American cities, the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue reductions for Kansas City.

“Such a challenging year has left the City to make difficult decisions as we plan for the next fiscal year. We have a leaner budget, but we also have a better plan to remove snow off the roads more quickly; to fill more potholes—10,000 of which we filled last year; to avoid utility companies tearing up newly-repaved streets; to ensure buses remain fare-free; and to efficiently deliver basic city services to all residents. And we plan to increase by over \$10 million our investment in road resurfacing and repavement to avoid the all-too-familiar concerns in Kansas City with crumbling roads, bridges, and infrastructure.

“Despite our positive changes and plans, we confront the reality of a revenue shortfall of more than \$70 million as compared to last year’s budget. The budget to be introduced moves the \$70 million forecast shortfall down to only \$15 million.

“As a child of a long-time government employee, I know that taking care of the people who keep this city running each day is one of the most important things we can do. That’s why it was essential to me that no City employees will be laid off due to budgetary concerns. No public works staff, no parks and recreation staff, no fire fighters or EMS, and no one in the Kansas City Police Department—despite what you’ve perhaps previously heard. No officer will need to lose their jobs due to budget cuts, and no stations need be closed. Instead we will right-size budgets in all our departments, eliminating wasteful spending, leaving most currently vacant positions unfilled.

“Every day, 7,000 people go to work for this great city and we will not leave them behind, even at this challenging time.”

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2021

State Launches Missouri COVID-19 Vaccine Navigator

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – Today, Governor Mike Parson announced the launch of the Missouri Vaccine Navigator, a secure registry tool to assist Missourians in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

“Although vaccine supply nationwide is still quite limited, this registration process will help connect Missourians with more avenues to receive a vaccine,” **Governor Parson** said. “This will not only provide support for Missouri citizens but also help our team determine where the greatest demands for vaccines exist throughout the state.”

Powered by Qualtrics, the Missouri Vaccine Navigator allows individuals to register for a vaccine, indicating their desire to be vaccinated. They will then complete a questionnaire to determine their eligibility based on Missouri’s priority phases.

Registrants will be notified upon activation of each phase and alerted when they become eligible. Individuals will then be able to seek vaccination from their health care provider if they have vaccines available or view mass vaccination events and other providers in their area.

In addition to helping individuals register for a vaccine, the Missouri Vaccine Navigator will remind registrants when it is time to schedule their second dose. Both vaccines currently authorized for use require two doses, and the second dose is critical to ensure individual and community protection.

“A crucial part of this process is for people to follow up for the second dose in order for them to be fully vaccinated and protected against

COVID-19,” said **Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Dr. Randall Williams**. “This system uses best practices to ensure patients and providers follow through with that second dose for the maximum amount of protection.”

The Missouri Vaccine Navigator will also integrate with ShowMeVax, the state’s immunization database for providers. Vaccination events using the Missouri Vaccine Navigator for scheduling will enable coordinators to quickly load vaccination administration data into the system and avoid cumbersome data entry.

When individuals visit MOPStopsCovid.com/navigator, they will answer questions regarding their personal health information so that the applicable priority group can be determined.

Later, the registrant will be notified when he or she becomes eligible and can then view and sign up for events in their area at that time. It will be important for individuals to receive their second dose from the same provider they received the first dose.

Those with online accessibility issues are encouraged to call the COVID-19 hotline at 877-435-8411 for registration assistance. Language translation and other services are available to callers.

**Design builder announced for Buck O'Neil
Bridge**



The Missouri Highways & Transportation Commission has selected Massman-Clarkson, A Joint Venture as the design-build contractor to replace the Buck O'Neil Bridge in Kansas City.

The contractor competed against two other design-build teams (American Bridge and Taylor-Ames), both of whom had local and national recognition. Massman-Clarkson, A Joint Venture's dynamic project proposal demonstrated a design that would be the best value for the City of Kansas City, which made them the top choice.

Construction is anticipated to begin in fall of 2021 and be complete by late fall of 2024.

To stay up to date on the project, visit [modot.org/buck-oneil-bridge-project](https://www.modot.org/buck-oneil-bridge-project).

**Say Hello to the CAC FSI Empower
Team!!!**



Last year, Jackson Co. Children's Services Fund, United Way of Greater Kansas City, the Hickman Mills C-1 School District and CAC teamed together for a Family Stability Initiative Empower program. Angela Witherspoon (seated) and Shari Simmermon are CAC's two Empower case managers who provide a year of case management and financial supports to Hickman Mills families who commit to the program. Angie and Shari help families set goals and work on educational and employment opportunities, promote mental health and emotional well being, and work with families toward housing stability and reduced student mobility. Between the two, they have many years of nonprofit social services work. Families interested in the program should visit <https://www.cackc.org/fsi-empower.html> or call 816-763-3277 x 104 or x 105.



SOUTH KANSAS CITY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Connecting, Educating, Growing Together

Please Join Us Online
for

Music Bingo

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Co-Hosted by: 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.



Grab a beverage and some snacks and join us online for Music Bingo!

What is Music Bingo?

Music Bingo is just like regular bingo but with song titles in each square. In advance each player will be emailed a Music Bingo Card. When it is time to play, players will tune-in to a live broadcast website featuring Faulkner's Ranch's very own Ranch-J Entertainer who will start the game.

The game is played by listening to a short clip of a song and marking the square if you have it on your card. You are welcome to sing along if you know the song. When a player thinks they have BINGO they simply text a picture of the card to the Faulkner's Ranch -J/Entertainer for verification.

Individual Player - \$20

- 1 Bingo card

Additional Bingo Cards - \$5/each

(Maximum of 3 additional cards per person)

Gold Sponsor - \$250

(Limit 1)

- 4 Bingo Cards
- Company logo on Bingo cards
- Company logo on Zoom screen
- Opportunity to do a two-minute "Commercial" about your business
- Recognition in the March issue of the Chamber's electronic newsletter
- Recognition on the Chamber website
- Recognition on Chamber's Social Media

Silver Sponsor - \$150

(No Limit)

- 2 Bingo Cards
- Company logo on Zoom screen
- Recognition in the March issue of the Chamber's electronic newsletter
- Recognition on the Chamber website
- Recognition on Chamber's Social Media

Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM CST

[Register Now](#)

Reservations requested by 2/22/2021

You must register to participate and a Zoom link will be emailed along with your Bingo card(s) a couple of days prior to the event from Faulkner's Ranch DJ.

Co-hosted by:

For questions contact the Chamber Office at

vwolgast@southkcchamber.com



KCUYA
SANDLOT
League 

The text 'KCUYA SANDLOT League' is written in a stylized, playful font. 'KCUYA' is in blue, 'SANDLOT' is in large, bold, yellow letters with a white outline, and 'League' is in a smaller, blue, cursive font. To the right of the word 'League' is a small icon of a red and white baseball cap with 'KC' on it. The text is set against a background of a baseball field with a blue sky and green grass.

INTERESTED IN BEING A VOLUNTEER COACH?

PLEASE EMAIL
JADA.HEIMERMAN@ROYALS.COM



SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

Join the FDIC's Alliance for Economic Inclusion of Kansas City webinar on Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. where we will discuss Small Business Resources to support and enhance low-income entrepreneurs and small disadvantaged businesses development and growth. Due to COVID-19, small businesses struggle to access the resources needed to stabilize their business. The webinar is targeted to small businesses in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area and broad area. In addition, this webinar will assist CRA officers, Small Business Bankers, Loan Officers, and Community Development Lenders and community organizations to help meet the needs of small businesses in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

This webinar is **FREE!**



For more information contact:

Teresa Green 816-234-8084 email: tegreen@fdic.gov

WEBINAR
February 25, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

New Small Business Resources

HUD Section 3 New Rule

Small Business Registry

Small Business Opportunity Portal

New Markets Tax Credits

Credit Building Program

Small Business Grants/Loans



Food Distribution

Call 816-763-3277 x 100 for Appointment

Curbside appointments - 9 am to 2:30 pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday

4 - 6 pm Wednesday and 9 am - noon Saturday once a month

Delivery for homebound - Thursdays

- Food is available once for anyone. Clients out of service area should visit Harvesters website or United Way 211 for pantry in their area.
- Pre-packed food boxes include Giving the Basics hygiene items.
- Please just leave one message. Calls will be returned.

South KC Mobile Food Pantries

With so many people out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic, a growing number of families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to five sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

Center District Warehouse, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is

sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

United Believers Community Church, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and food will be loaded in the vehicles when they reach the school by staff and student volunteers. This event is sponsored by the school and Community Assistance Council.

Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

Center High School, 8715 Holmes Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as long as food is left on the third Saturday of the month. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

Coronavirus Facts and Resources

Kansas City

If you would like to receive updates about what the City is doing in response to the coronavirus, **text COVIDKC to 888777** or go online to kcmo.gov/coronavirus

Missouri

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a [hotline](#) for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19.

The statewide hotline number is **877-435-8411**. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

UNEMPLOYMENT

How to File?

If you're eligible, you'll need the following:

- Your Social Security number;
- Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions;
- The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
- The dates you started and ended work at each of those jobs.

If this is your first time filing for unemployment please watch [this video](#) on unemployment basics. Visit uinteract.labor.mo.gov, create an account and file your claim. If your job loss is related to coronavirus issues, make sure to check a box that says "COVID-19" in your application to waive a requirement to search for a new job amid the crisis.

Missouri provides benefits for up to 20 weeks, which can be extended to 33 weeks under the federal provisions.

The state will pay you up to \$320 per week, and the federal government will provide \$600 on top of whatever you get from the state for each week you're on unemployment prior to July 31.

Benefits can be paid within 22 days unless there is an issue with your eligibility, which on average can take 4-6 weeks to resolve.

You should continue filing weekly requests for payment even if you have not yet received benefits.

Regional Claims Center representatives are available by phone Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM by calling:

Kansas City Claims Center: 816-889-3101 or visit

[Missouri Unemployment Website](#)

Please visit the Missouri Department of Labor's website for more information about COVID-19 FAQ's for Businesses and Workers: <https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus>

US Department of Labor has a few sites dedicated to Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KCcrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives

Room 102-BA

201 W Capitol Ave

Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Phone

573-751-9469

Email

mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

**Please don't hesitate to contact me
with any feedback, questions or ideas!**
