



Dear Neighbor,

On December 1st, 2021, I pre-filed legislation to expand eligibility for wrongful conviction and imprisonment restitution payments from the state of Missouri. Currently under Missouri law, only persons exonerated due to DNA testing are eligible for wrongful conviction and imprisonment restitution payments.

Since 1991, there have been just over 50 wrongfully convicted persons who have been exonerated in Missouri. Of those, only 17 were eligible for restitution payments for their imprisonment due to DNA testing. This legislation is designed to remedy this unfairness.

This past Tuesday in the Emerging Issues Committee, the exact language I pre-filed on December 1st was presented by Representatives Ron Hicks and Shamed Dogan. It's been a privilege to work across the aisle with Representatives Hicks and Dogan on this significant piece of legislation that has been a hot topic in Jefferson City.

We may see some amendments to the version we have presented this coming week when the committee intends to vote on House Bills 2412 & 2474. Currently any restitution payments stop when the exonerated person passes away.

Many of us wish to add another provision to extend those payments to their next of kin until the total restitution amount has been paid.

Locally in honor of Black History Month, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum has free admission all month long, sponsored by the Kansas City Royals.

Anyone in KCMO needing up to two smoke detector in their residence should call 816-513-4648 to request them. The KCFD will install up to two smoke detectors with ten-year batteries in KCMO residences that need them for no charge.

Lastly, many of our schools have a terrible shortage of substitute teachers. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a substitute teacher or finding work as a substitute teacher, please visit the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website or contact your local school districts.

If anyone would like to contact me about legislation, they would like me to introduce or support or legislation they would like me to oppose, please email me at Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov.

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 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



This picture was taken during a recent hearing of the Special Committee on Urban Issues. This was just before the committee unanimously voted in favor of House Bills 1743 & 2185 introduced by Representative Raychel Proudie and Representative Shamed Dogan, which establish the

"Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (Missouri CROWN) Act".

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, February 4th, 2022

COMMITTEE HEARS “MAKE MURDER LEGAL ACT”

A Senate committee considered legislation on Feb. 1 that Stoddard County Prosecuting Attorney Russell Oliver called the “Make Murder Legal Act” during his testimony. in opposition to the bill on behalf of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, according to the Kansas City Star and St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspapers.

Current Missouri law allows persons to use physical force when and to the extent they reasonably believe is necessary to defend themselves or others from what they reasonably believe is the use or imminent use of unlawful force. Persons have no duty to retreat from any place they have the right to be when they feel threatened.

Current law specifically allows persons to use deadly force under such circumstances:

If they reasonably believe it is necessary to protect themselves, another person or an unborn child from death, serious injury or a forcible felony; **or** If it is used by them against a person who unlawfully enters, remains after unlawfully entering or attempts to unlawfully enter a residence or vehicle the

persons are lawfully occupying, or private property they own or lease or have been given specific authority to occupy.

Allowing the use of deadly force in all such circumstances, particularly in cases when people reasonably believe it was necessary to defend themselves or others from what they reasonably believe was the use or imminent use of any type or level of unlawful force when persons unlawfully enter or attempt to enter private property which could be a yard or field, already seems extremely permissive.

Senate Bill 666 provides that when a person uses physical force against another person under any of these circumstances, “There shall be a presumption of reasonableness under this section that the defendant believed such force was necessary to defend himself or herself or a third person from what he or she believed to be the use or imminent use of unlawful force by another person.”

In homicides with no witnesses, Oliver said, the legislation would force authorities to accept the suspect’s version of events during his testimony before the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety Committee.

In such cases, “So long as the person is dead...you automatically have immunity because there’s not someone else to even say what had happened,” Oliver said, according to the Post-Dispatch.

One of the few likely exceptions to such a scenario might be shooting someone in the back.

Testifying against the bill introduced by Senator Eric Burlison, R-Battlefield, were representatives of all the major law enforcement organizations in Missouri including the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, Missouri Police Chiefs Association and Missouri Sheriffs United, a sister organization of the Missouri Sheriffs Association that represents sheriffs’ interests in the state capitol.

The Kansas City Star reported that Scott Swain, a lobbyist for the Missouri Police Chiefs Association, testified at the hearing that Missourians already have the right to self-defense.

“The police chiefs support the right to bear arms, they support the right to protect yourself. And they also recognize the burden is on the government to prove otherwise in those self-defense cases. We believe the process exists,” Swain said, according to the Star.

SENATORS BLOCK DIRECTOR’S CONFIRMATION

Conservative Senate hardliners on Feb. 1 blocked Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services Director Donald Kauerauf from being confirmed a day after roughly 100 protestors rallied in the Capitol to oppose his appointment, largely based on false allegations that Kauerauf supports mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations.

Kauerauf, a 30-year veteran of the Illinois Department of Public Health with experience in emergency management, had been Missouri’s health director since Sep. 1, but his appointment needed to be confirmed by the Senate no later than Feb. 4 in order to keep the job.

With lawmakers anxious to leave Jefferson City ahead of a snowstorm and the hardliners threatening a filibuster, Senate Republican leaders opted not to bring up Kauerauf’s appointment for a vote.

While the Senate allowed Gov. Mike Parson to withdraw other appointments facing the Feb. 4 deadline so that he can re-appoint those persons later, senators would not allow him to do so with Kauerauf. As a result, Kauerauf, who subsequently resigned after his confirmation was blocked, is constitutionally barred from being re-appointed to the post in the future.

Although Kauerauf strongly advocated for people to voluntarily be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a vital step toward ending the pandemic, he publicly opposed mandates.

Parson was livid following the Senate’s refusal to confirm his appointee.

“It’s unfortunate that we now have to disrupt state operations and the leadership at an entire department because the Missouri Senate chose to indulge a few men’s egos,” Parson said in a statement. “The events that

have transpired over the past few days surrounding Don's Senate confirmation hearing are nothing short of disgraceful, unquestionably wrong and an embarrassment to this state and the people we serve.”

“I've been a conservative Republican my entire life and, contrary to what some Senators believe, tarnishing a man's character by feeding misinformation, repeating lies and disgracing 35 years of public health experience is not what it means to be conservative.”

Parson appointed Richard Moore to serve as acting health department director until a permanent replacement is chosen. Moore had been the department’s general counsel.

SPENDING APPROVAL MOVING SLOWLY

Gov. Mike Parson’s Feb. 1 requested target date for the legislature to grant final passage to a nearly \$5.27 billion emergency supplemental appropriations bill came and went without the measure getting even a committee vote in either chamber.

The bill would distribute federal pandemic relief funds to public school districts and other local governments, as well as provide a significant pay raise to state government workers and funding for various other initiatives.

Late last year, Parson proposed a 5.5% pay hike for all state employees, as well as a \$15-an-hour minimum wage for state jobs. Missouri consistently ranks last in the nation in average state worker salaries. Parson wanted both pay initiatives implemented by Feb. 1 to address the state’s problems with hiring and retaining workers during an extremely competitive labor market.

Lawmakers also risk losing \$2 billion in federal funding that is set to expire in late March if not allocated by then.

Despite the governor’s call for quick action, the supplemental spending bill has languished. The House Budget Committee held a hearing on it on Jan. 10, but until recently took no further action to advance it. The committee has now scheduled a Feb. 7 vote on the measure - House Bill 3014.

If the committee passes HB 3014, it likely still will be at least several weeks before the bill is sent to the governor to be signed into law. After the committee acts, the full House of Representatives still must vote to advance the bill to the Senate. It then must be heard and recommended for passage by a Senate committee, and the Senate must approve it. If the Senate changes the measure, it must go back to the House for approval of the amended version before being sent to the governor.

JUDGE UPHOLDS MOST OF BALLOT LANGUAGE

A Cole County judge on Feb. 2 largely upheld the ballot language Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft wrote for a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit diverting taxpayer funding to private schools through vouchers or tax credits.

However, the judge rewrote a portion of Ashcroft's language pertaining to a provision requiring the state to implement a uniform process for evaluating and accrediting public schools.

Supporters of the proposed amendment sued Ashcroft in October, claiming his ballot language provided a "distorted characterization" of what it would do and was "calculated to prejudice voters against the measure."

Its backers are seeking to put the measure on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot via the initiative petition process, which allows voters to propose and enact legislation independently of the General Assembly.

One section of the proposed amendment states its intent is to preserve revenue available for public schools by largely prohibiting efforts to subsidize private schools with public funds, subject to a list of five narrow exceptions.

The General Assembly last year enacted House Bill 349 which I voted against - a controversial law allowing people to donate to private organizations that would in turn provide scholarships to students in more populous cities and counties to partially pay for private K-12 school tuition

and to receive tax credits for the full amount of their contributions.

Donors would end up being out no money, while the amount of tax revenue the state collects for public education and other services would be reduced by up to \$50 million annually, an amount that eventually could increase to \$75 million.

The proposed amendment would almost certainly render that law unconstitutional.

The amendment's second section would require the Missouri State Board of Education to establish uniform regulations for public schools and appears intended to ensure accountability for charter schools which currently operate free of many regulations that apply to traditional public schools. At present, charter schools are only allowed to operate in St. Louis and Kansas City, but proponents have been lobbying lawmakers in recent years to expand them statewide.

Circuit Judge Jon Beetem upheld the part of Ashcroft's language claiming the measure would "remove opportunities for disabled, special needs, and those students who are economically disadvantaged" by prohibiting private school vouchers or tax credits for donations for scholarships for private school tuition.

He deleted language stating the amendment would "limit the influence, power and authority of parents, community members and local school boards."

The case, *Talbot v. Ashcroft*, is expected to be appealed. Supporters have until early May to collect the roughly 172,000 signatures from registered Missouri voters necessary to put the measure on the ballot.



CELEBRATING
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

VIRTUAL ZOOM
LUNCH & LEARN
SPEAKER SERIES



THURSDAY, FEB. 3, 12-1 P.M.

DR. KIMBERLY BEATTY

CHANCELLOR, METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/92779251298](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/92779251298)



THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 12-1 P.M.

BOB KENDRICK

PRESIDENT & CEO, NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/98733938622](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/98733938622)



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 12-1 P.M.

E. FRANK ELLIS

FOUNDER, SWOPE HEALTH

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/92708817003](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/92708817003)



THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 12-1 P.M.

EMANUEL CLEAVER II

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/91975085077](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/91975085077)

Medicaid Enrollment

We can help!

Kansas City Health Department

2400 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64108

Every Tuesday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

FREE assistance

from experts with

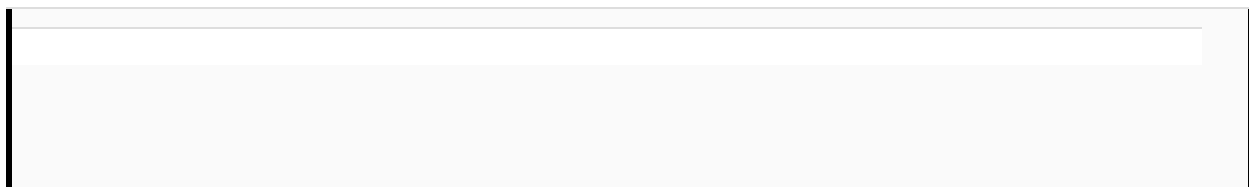
KC Care Health Center & Swope Health

(Since Medicaid was expanded to include more people,
you could be eligible!)



swopeHEALTH





Do you want to work but first need:

- A resume
- Help preparing for an interview
- To know where and how to start the process
- To work out transportation or childcare
- Your social security card, ID or birth certificate
- GED or other training
- Interview clothes
- Other supports



Join Us for FREE Overcoming Barriers to Employment

INFORMATION • PRESENTATIONS • 1:1 SUPPORTS

10 am - 1 pm, Feb. 16, 2022

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 9420 James A. Reed Road, KCMO

Organizations will share their expertise, services and provide 1:1 supports to help you overcome barriers to employment. If you can, bring basic info of your work history, social security card, ID and/or birth certificate. Masks will be required at all times.

Catholic Charities

1:1 – Building Your Resume
Presentation - 10 Tips for a Successful Interview

Community Assistance Council

1:1 - Get Your Critical Documents
(bring Social Security Card, ID, Birth Certificate, we'll help get the rest)

Express Employment Professionals

1:1 - Online Job Applications / Practice Interviews
Presentation - How to Keep the Job

Full Employment Council

1:1 – Get Registered in the FEC Employment Portal
Presentation - Overview FEC's Employment Services

Goodwill

1:1 – Building Your Resume

Kansas City Area Transportation Authority

Help With Your Best Public Transportation Route/Options

Mid-Continent Public Library

1:1 - Assessments and Best Resources for You

Women's Employment Network

Presentation - Essential Skills You Need for ANY Job

Also, Walk Away With:

- Resume In Hand
- Childcare Resources
- Interview-Ready Outfit
- Phone Ordered (if needed)
- COVID Vaccination or Booster

TO REGISTER

REGISTRATION HELPFUL
WALK-INS WELCOME

Scan QR code:

Visit: www.cackc.org

Email: info@cackc.org

Call: 816-763-3277 X 103

For general information:

Rachel Casey

816-763-3277 X 103

rachel.casey@cackc.org



Sponsors







VIRTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD TRAINING

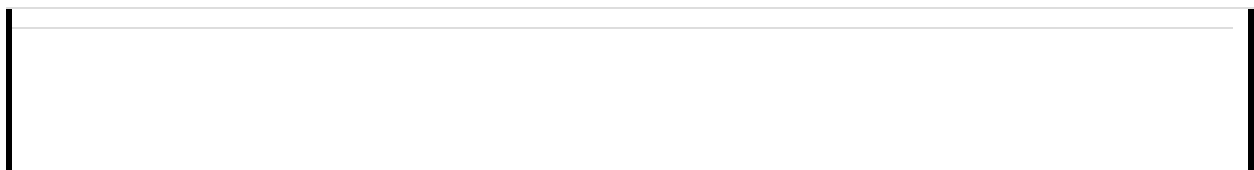
The Center for Conflict Resolution is offering our FREE, Neighborhood Accountability Training online to provide community members the opportunity to be a part of restorative justice processes that happen in their communities around Kansas City.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards allow for all parties affected by harm, such as shoplifting, underage drinking and more, to share their side of the story and work together on a solution that makes this right.

***FEBRUARY 18TH, 2022 9 AM - 4 PM
FREE ONLINE ZOOM TRAINING***

To register for this training, send email to dbayless@ccrkc.org or go to our website, www.ccrkc.org for more information.

Internet, Zoom, and computer access required.



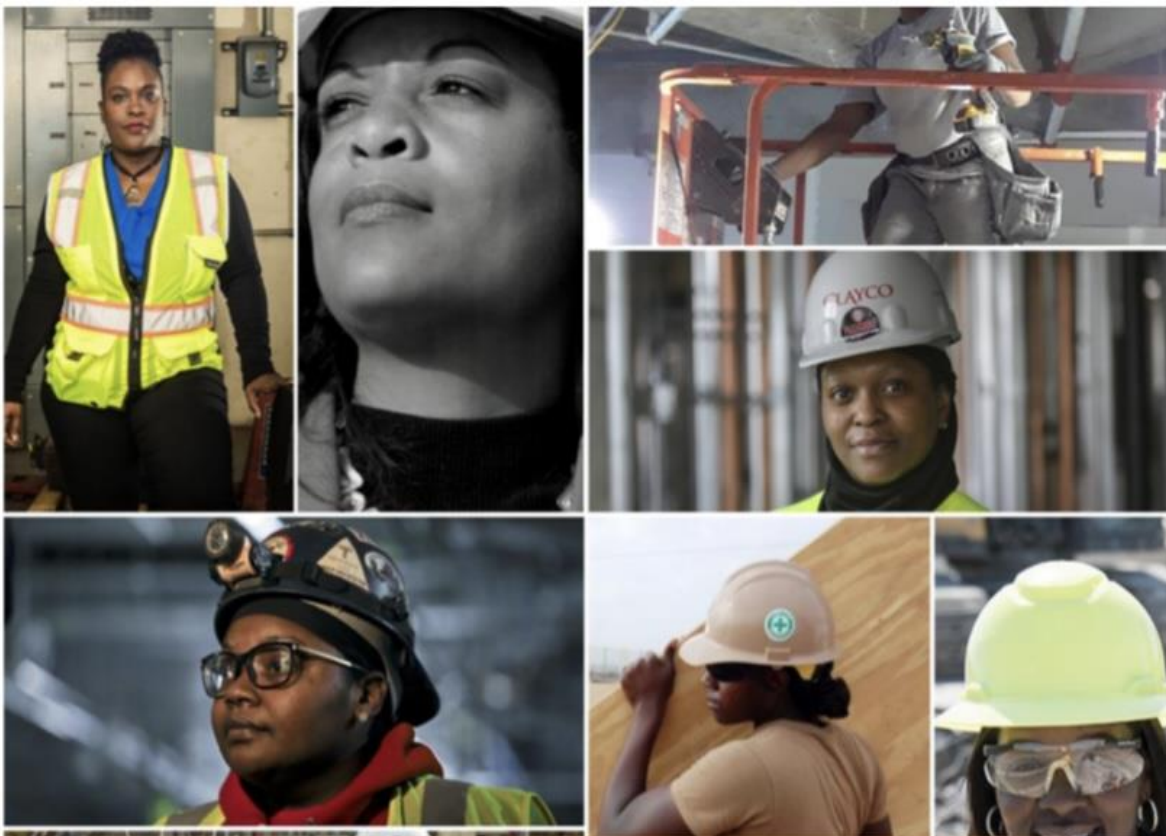
STRATEGIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INC.

KC Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program Enrolment Dates



OPEN TO MINORITY AND WOMEN (AGES 18-50)
START DATES FOR CLASSES FEB 21 AND APRIL 4, 2022

PRE-REGISTER ON
[HTTP://MO.JOBS.MO/GOV](http://mo.jobs.mo/gov)
THEN SET APPOINTMENT BY CALING (816) 433 -4682



www.strategicwfd.com

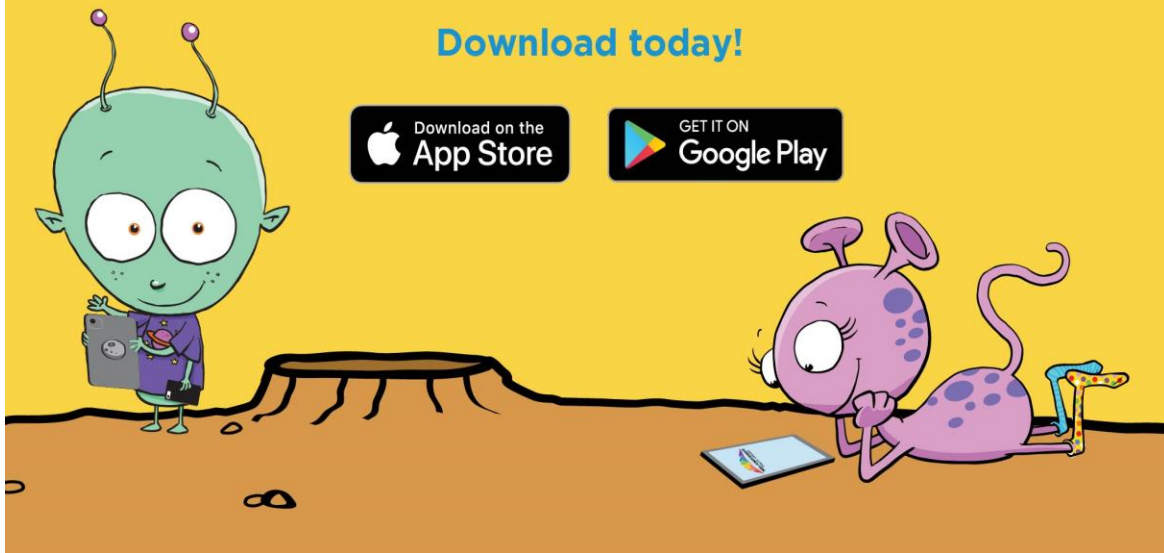
Email: workforce@strategicwfd.com

Office Add: 111 W, 10th St. Kansas City, MO 64105

NEW! GROW A READER App

Build a daily habit of talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing with the new MCPL Grow A Reader app.

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Smoke Alarm

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KCFD

CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

For more Fire Safety information visit:

KCMO.GOV/FIRE

South KC Mobile Food Pantries

Many 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 seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

Center School District, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

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 staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

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.

Red Bridge United Methodist Church, 636 E. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



The February 2022 Issue of Kansas City's Most Wanted is now available.

Your monthly delivery of Kansas City's Most Wanted is here! Take a look at this month's local fugitives and see if you recognize anyone. If so, submit an anonymous TIP and you could receive a cash reward! No one will ever know except you.

TIPS can be anonymously submitted via the following methods:

- KC CS QR Code
- The TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477)
- Online at www.kccrimestoppers.com
- The P3 Mobile App

Thank you for your continued support of the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers program.

**Note: If your browser is still displaying last month's issue, please try opening the page in an incognito window.*

[View Now](#)



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!**