



Dear Neighbor,

I was pleased that following repeated pleas by police, faith leaders and many area elected officials including me to not engage in celebratory gunfire, 911 calls about shots fired in KCMO the evening of this New Year's Eve and the early morning of New Year's Day were down from 303 last year to 259.

KCPD's ShotSpotter system deployed in some parts of the city detected 174 incidents of shots being fired the evening of this New Year's Eve and the early morning of New Year's Day totaling 1,162 rounds, down from 239 incidents totaling 1,623 rounds the same time a year ago. The system uses acoustic sensors to detect shots being fired and the location of the shooting.

However, I was deeply saddened to hear from our police department that two victims who both reported being hit by celebratory gunfire were taken to the hospital during this year's holiday.

One incident occurred on East 73rd Street and another at an apartment complex in one of the most southern parts of our city. Fortunately, both wounds were not life-threatening, and nobody was killed by celebratory gunfire this holiday in Kansas City.

KCPD reported 11 incidents of property damage resulting from indiscriminate or celebratory gunfire, but the amount of property damage is probably much higher since the roofs of some businesses and residences likely were struck by gunfire when nobody was there which

won't become apparent until roof leaks are noticed during future storms.

And police say persons should understand that ShotSpotter activations and 911 calls only represent a relatively small proportion of the number of incidents of celebratory and indiscriminate gunfire since the ShotSpotter system only covers a portion of the city, and many people don't call in reports of shots fired unless it is happening very close to where they are. For example, only about 30% of ShotSpotter activations are also called in by neighboring residents.

To deter such dangerous activity I have re-introduced Blair's Law (House Bill 1568) to make celebratory gunfire and any other unjustified discharge of firearms with criminal negligence within or into city limits a serious state offense.

It is named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who died after being struck by celebratory gunfire here on July 4, 2011. I will keep readers of this Report up to date on its progress through the legislative process.

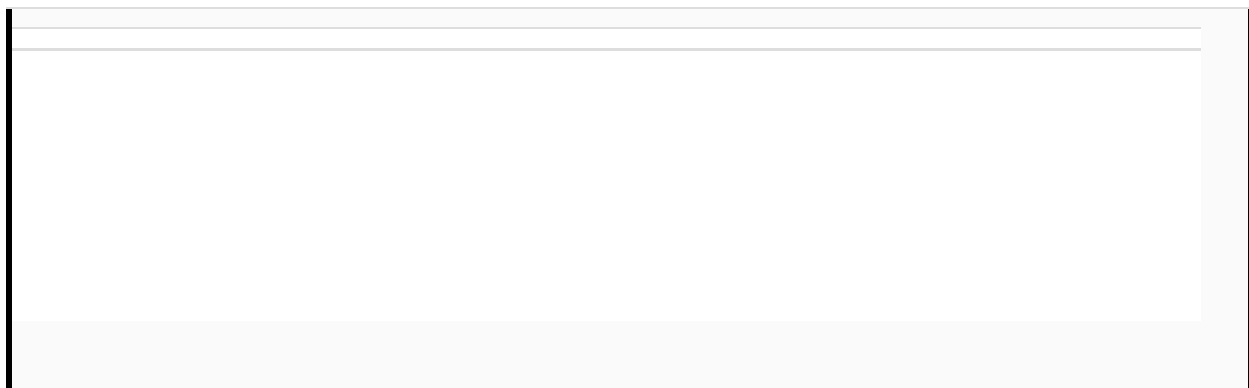
If anyone would like to contact me about legislation they would like me to introduce or support or legislation they would like me to oppose, please email me at Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov.

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





I went back to the Capitol on Wednesday, January 5, for the start of the 2022 regular session of the Missouri General Assembly that will run through May 13 with committee hearings on proposed legislation starting next week. On the session's second day, I took a few minutes to speak to the entire House on the significance of the recent induction of John "Buck" O'Neil into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and was pleasantly surprised to get a standing ovation honoring his legacy.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, January 7th, 2022

Republicans Lose House Supermajority

A rash of resignations has cost Republicans their two-thirds supermajority in the Missouri House of Representatives at a crucial moment when it could prove necessary to enact new congressional districts in time for candidate filing in February. The legislature must redraw the state's eight congressional districts this year to reflect population shifts over the last decade.

House Republicans held a 114-49 advantage over Democrats during the 2021 session. However, Republican numbers have since dropped to 108 – one short of the 109 votes constitutionally required to override a veto or, more importantly in the current situation, to enact an emergency clause allowing legislation to take effect immediately upon being signed by the

governor.

Three of the vacancies occurred in recent days, starting with the Jan. 2 resignation of Rep. Wayne Wallingford, R-Cape Girardeau, who stepped down to become director of the Missouri Department of Revenue. Days later, Representatives Aaron Griesheimer of Washington and Justin Hill of Lake St. Louis resigned to take private sector jobs.

With candidate filing for the Aug. 2 primary elections set to open Feb. 22, the congressional redistricting bill must be enacted and in effect by that time. However, without an emergency clause, bills passed in the regular legislative session don't take effect until Aug. 28, regardless of when the governor signs them into law. In this instance, that would be nearly four weeks after the primary election.

Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft issued a news release on Jan. 5 asking Gov. Mike Parson to immediately call special elections for April 5 to fill the six vacant seats.

Parson could have called special elections for the first three vacancies, which were created in April, October and November much earlier, but chose not to do so. Even if he did call them now, it would prove no help for congressional redistricting since the April election is way past the date when filing opens.

As a result, enacting an emergency clause for the congressional redistricting bill would require at least one Democratic House member to vote for it, which might prove difficult since the latest proposed Republican plan calls for concentrating Democratic voters into just two Kansas City and St. Louis City area districts and maintaining six safe Republican districts.

Some Republican lawmakers have advocated making major changes in our area's 5th Congressional District currently held by Representative Emanuel Cleaver in an attempt to secure a 7-1 Republican congressional delegation.

However, Republican legislative leaders have resisted that plan since it would dilute Republican strength in surrounding districts and potentially cost the party seats over the long term.

Parson Ends State of Emergency

Despite COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations hitting record levels in many parts of the state and nation, Gov. Mike Parson let the state of emergency he declared at the start of the pandemic in March 2020 expire on Dec. 31.

The move drew widespread criticism from medical providers and local health officials who noted the pandemic is getting worse, not better.

“Thanks to the effectiveness of the vaccine, widespread efforts to mitigate the virus and our committed health care professionals, past needs to continue the state of emergency are no longer present,” Parson said in a news release announcing his decision.

Hospital officials in the Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield areas are all reporting sharp spikes in COVID-19 cases and increasingly overwhelmed staff as the highly contagious omicron variant spreads throughout Missouri while the more dangerous delta variant continues to spread in the state, the Associated Press reported on Jan. 5.

According to tracking data maintained by The New York Times, as of Jan. 6, the number of cases in Missouri had increased 157 percent over the previous two weeks, with hospitalizations up 34 percent. Nationwide, cases were up 247 percent over the same period, while hospitalizations increased 58 percent.

In response to the rising number of cases, the St. Louis County Council on Jan. 4 voted to reinstate its countywide mask mandate. Attorney General Eric Schmitt promptly sued the county in an attempt to block its action.

Governor Announces New Directors

Gov. Mike Parson announced two new additions to his cabinet on Dec. 29 with the selection of Wayne Wallingford as director of the Missouri Department of Revenue and Valarie Huhn as director of the state Department of Mental Health.

Wallingford, of Cape Girardeau, has been a veteran state lawmaker. After being term-limited in the upper chamber where he once served with Parson, Wallingford, a Republican, won election to the House of Representatives in 2020 and was midway through his term when he resigned to take the revenue post. The Senate must confirm Wallingford's appointment.

Huhn has been part of upper management at the Mental Health Department since 2014 and was named deputy director in 2020. She had been serving as interim director since November following her predecessor's retirement. The independent Missouri Mental Health Commission chose Huhn as permanent director. She does not face Senate confirmation.

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2022

Missouri to Honor First Responders Seriously Injured in the Line of Duty with new Red, White and Blue Award

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – Today, Governor Mike Parson announced that the state, for the first time, will begin honoring first responders who are seriously injured in the line of duty as they carry out their official responsibilities. The Missouri Red, White and Blue Heart Award will be awarded for injuries sustained on the job, beginning with the year 2021.

“Our first responders courageously and selflessly risk their lives each day to apprehend criminals and protect their fellow Missourians, too often suffering serious injuries or even death because of their heroic actions,” **Governor Parson** said. “The new Red, White and Blue Heart Award will honor law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other emergency first responders whose extraordinary actions to protect others lead to serious injuries or death in the line of duty.”

The Missouri Medal of Valor Review Board, an 11-member panel appointed by the Missouri Governor, has approved the addition of the Red, White and Blue Award to the annual state public safety awards for which it reviews nominations and recommends honorees to the Governor. The new award is intended to recognize first responders who sustain injuries that require long-term treatment by a medical professional and involve considerable loss of time from duty. In cases in which a first responder is killed, the award will be presented to a family member.

The Red, White and Blue Heart Award will be the first state award recognizing Missouri peace officers, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs or other emergency first responders seriously injured in the line of duty. For purposes of the award, “peace officer” includes persons serving as state or local corrections or court officers.

The application for the award for persons sustaining serious injuries in the line of duty during 2021 is available on the Missouri Department of Public Safety Medals website at <https://dps.mo.gov/medal/>.

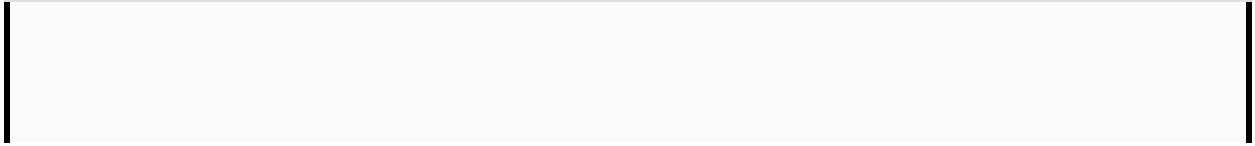
Nominations will only be accepted from the chief executive of the public safety agency that employs the nominee.

The nomination deadline is Feb. 28, 2022. A date has not been set for a ceremony recognizing the Red, White and Blue Heart Award recipients for injuries sustained in 2021.

The Medal of Valor Review Board reviews nominations and makes recommendations to Missouri’s Governor for the Missouri Medal of Valor and the Governor’s Medal (a team honor), awards that recognize first responders for heroic, life-saving acts.

The review board also reviews nominations and makes recommendation to the Governor for the Public Safety Civilian Partnership Award, which recognizes civilians who provide courageous assistance to public safety agencies during an emergency.

The review board includes members with experience in law enforcement, the fire service, corrections, and EMS. More information on the board is available [here](#).



2022 Greater Kansas City Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service



Sunday, Jan. 9th, 1:30 pm

Community Christian Church

4601 Main St., Kansas City, MO

An In-Person & Virtual Celebration!!

(Use either of the links provided here for a virtual connection:

<https://www.facebook.com/SCLCGreaterKansasCity>)

or <https://www.youtube.com/c/community4kc>)

REGISTER @ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mlk-interfaith-service-co-sponsored-by-sclc-gkc-and-jcrbajc-tickets-238354202837>



Sponsored by
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference
and The Jewish Community Relations Bureau |
American Jewish Committee.



Hosted by Community Christian Church on behalf of the interfaith community of Greater Kansas City.

Special Music



Tim Whitmer



Millie Edwards



Mia Ramsey

+++ KC Boys Choir/
KC Girls Choir
++ Cantors

GUEST SPEAKER

The Rev. Emanuel Cleaver II

U.S. Representative,
5th Congressional District
Minister, United Methodist Church



PRESENTATION

2022 Evelyn Wasserstrom Awards



Rabbi Doug Alpert Patricia Jones Macklin Anita L. Russell



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"Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

Speaker Series at Holmeswood

9:00am-Speaker

10:15am-Speaker and Worship

City Manager Brian Platt

"Housing Crisis in KC"

January 23



Councilwoman Andrea Bough

"Tenants' Right to Counsel"

January 30

US District Judge Stephen Bough
Dion Sankar-Jackson Cty Prosecutor Office
DeJ'on Slaughter-Turner Construction

"Re-Entry Court"

February 6



Holmeswood Baptist Church

9700 Holmes Rd
holmeswood.org

YouTube



13TH ANNUAL GRANDVIEW C-4

*A night for
Family Fun*



Thursday, January 27, 2021

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

A fundraiser to support teacher grants, student scholarships and other programs, this event is hosted through TriviaHub.

Gather your team through a zoom platform (together or apart) and join us for a competitive game of fun!

BE A SPONSOR

Mensa - \$1,000

- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event
- Logo recognition on-screen during event

Genius - \$500

- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event

Brainiac - \$250

- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event

FORM A TEAM

Team of 8 - \$100

Gather 8 friends, family or coworkers for a night of fun!

DONATE GOODS OR SERVICES

With a virtual format, we will gladly accept donations of gift cards or certificates to offer as prizes throughout the evening!

Register online at:

<https://forms.gle/4GwtMKdpgBW8UCbn8>

For questions call 913.522.9943

Presented by:



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Missouri is experiencing an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases. Here's what you need to know about the current situation in Missouri, and what you can do to help.

Delta, omicron and other viruses are all present throughout the state. The current surge of COVID-19 cases is happening in tandem with a spike in other illnesses like the flu. Experts believe delta is still the dominant COVID-19

strain in Missouri, and a surge of the highly contagious omicron variant could overwhelm our health care systems.

Here's what you can do: If you start to feel sick, get tested as soon as possible, using one of Missouri's convenient testing options including [regional drive-thru testing sites](#), local [pharmacies](#) and [self collection tests](#).

Emergency rooms are not the most efficient COVID-19 testing sites. To help hospitals effectively manage the COVID-19 surge and care for all patients experiencing life-threatening emergencies, use one of the testing options listed above if your symptoms are not severe.

Vaccines and masks work.

Vaccines remain the best tool in preventing severe illness and hospitalization from COVID-19, including against new variants. Mask wearing and distancing from others, especially in public indoor settings, helps prevent the spread of the virus.

Here's what you can do: Get [vaccinated](#) and boosted as soon as you're eligible. Mask up to protect yourself and others.

Hospitals and health care resources are stretched thin.

Local hospitals are facing significant staffing shortages. Lack of staff to care for patients, matched with large numbers of patients and overcrowded emergency rooms is straining our health care system.

Here's what you can do: All health care staff are working under extremely stressful conditions. Be kind, and do what you can to show your appreciation for their tireless work to care for Missouri patients.

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. (There will be no pantry in January.)

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.



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State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives

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