



Dear Neighbor,

I'm extremely pleased that the new statewide pretrial witness protection program created by legislation I co-sponsored is now in operation. Governor Mike Parson on December 11 signed into law the supplemental spending bill that included \$2 million to fund the program, and the Missouri Department of Public Safety already had notified police chiefs and sheriffs in the state to pre-register to participate.

Under the program, the Department may make funds available to Missouri law enforcement agencies to provide for the safety of witnesses to violent crimes and the victims of such crimes if their testimony might subject them to danger, as well as to members of their immediate families. These services may continue as long as danger exists.

The program, titled the Protection Program for Victims/Witnesses of Violent Crime, operates on a reimbursement basis, so law enforcement agencies must pay or obligate funds before being reimbursed. Funds for such services also may come from the Victims of Crime Assistance Program operated by the Missouri Department of Social Services.

To register to participate law enforcement agencies may visit DPS WebGrants. They may contact program manager Connie Berhorst at connie.berhorst@dps.mo.gov or 573-751-2771 for more information.

I am confident that providing protection for witnesses, victims and their families will result in more witnesses and victims testifying so that more of the repeat violent offenders who commit many of our city's most violent crimes can be prosecuted and incarcerated before they can hurt others.

Their help is urgently needed to reduce our city's soaring number of homicides, and they shouldn't have to risk their lives, and the lives of their immediate families, to testify.

As of December 17, there had been 173 homicides so far this year in KCMO, greatly exceeding the previous annual record of homicides of 151 set in 2017 and 2019. This is three more homicides than I reported last week. All three were in south Kansas City, and one was in my legislative district. They brought the total number of homicides in South Patrol this year to 22.

Please scroll down to read about other state government matters and important upcoming local events. Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my assistant [Brian Farmer](#) is ready to help you.

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

Mark A. Sharp
WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE
Friday, December 18, 2020

RESOLUTION DISPUTING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION NOW DEAD

On a straight party-line vote, the House Special Committee on Government Oversight on December 14 voted 6-3 in favor of a non-binding resolution calling on Congress to reject the presidential election results in six states won by former Vice President Joe Biden unless a “full and fair investigation” of those results was completed first.

However, the full Missouri House permanently adjourned its special session December 16 without taking up the measure.

House Resolution 2 introduced by Rep. Justin Hill of St. Charles County cited unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – all states won by Biden.

It sought to put the Missouri House on record as having “no faith in the validity of the results of the 2020 presidential election” reported by those states, called for yet another investigation of the results in those states and asked Congress to

refuse to accept the electoral votes from those states unless such an investigation was completed.

Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, who appeared via videoconference, was the primary witness for the resolution.

The measure died when the chairman of another House committee that also had to approve it prior to House debate said his committee would not meet.

The Government Oversight Committee vote took place on the same day members of the Electoral College met in state capitols across the country to formally elect Biden as president. Biden won 306 electoral votes, while Trump garnered 232, including Missouri's 10 electoral votes. Congress is scheduled to take the largely ministerial action of certifying the Electoral College results on January 6.

No lawsuits challenging the presidential election results in any state have been successful.

STATE REVENUE EXPECTED TO DROP \$418.8 MILLION IN FY 2022

State budget officials expect that net state general revenue collections for the upcoming fiscal year will decline by 4.1 percent compared to the anticipated collections for the current fiscal year, dropping by a hefty \$418.8 million.

The governor's administration and budget leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives agree to the so-called consensus revenue estimate most years just before the annual state budget process gets underway to ensure all parties are working from the same assumptions regarding how much money the state will have to spend in the coming fiscal year.

The budget process for the 2022 fiscal year begins in January when Gov. Mike Parson presents his proposed spending plan to lawmakers who have through May 7 to pass a final budget. The 2022 fiscal year begins July 1.

STATE APPROVES POLICE ACADEMY FOR LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

State officials on December 15 finalized a license for Lincoln University to operate a law enforcement training academy on its campus.

Lincoln's academy, which is expected to enroll its first recruit class in January, will be the first in the nation operated by a historically Black college or university.

The Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, which oversees the training and licensing of law enforcement officers in the state, voted to recommend the Lincoln training academy for licensure on November 30, and the Missouri Department of Public Safety approved it two weeks later.

In addition, the POST Commission has voted to require future recruits at all Missouri police academies to undergo two hours of training on the history of policing in minority communities, including the role of police in enforcing Jim Crow laws and slavery.

Please scroll down to see the news releases with more information about these actions which I think are both positive steps to improve police-community relations.

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2020

Missouri Grants Law Enforcement Basic Training Academy License to Lincoln University

License Will Allow Lincoln to Establish Nation's First Training Academy at a Historically Black College and University

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – The state of Missouri has granted a law enforcement basic training center license to Lincoln University, which will allow the establishment of the nation's first law enforcement training academy at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

Following a recommendation for approval by the Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission on November 30, Governor Mike Parson and Missouri Department of Public Safety Director Sandy Karsten signed the one-year probationary license today during a ceremony at Lincoln.

“At a time when law enforcement agencies are working to attract more diverse officers and create agencies that look more like their communities, Lincoln University presented an ambitious plan for a law enforcement training center that could have far-reaching impacts on recruiting more minorities to policing,” **Governor Mike Parson** said. “We appreciate all the work the Lincoln University team has put into this unique effort.”

“Lincoln University stands proud as the first HBCU to offer a police academy on its campus,” said **Lincoln University President Jerald Jones Woolfolk**. “The founding of our University began with a dream that answered the need for educational opportunities for freed African Americans following the Civil War. Today, a new vision is providing this unique opportunity that will create a more diverse field of law enforcement officers.”

“I’ve been impressed by the Lincoln University team’s effort and professionalism as the POST commissioners and I have met with them during the effort to establish the law enforcement basic training center,” **Department of Public Safety Director Sandy Karsten** said. “Attracting minority recruits to law enforcement is one of the key issues faced by agencies across the nation. The Lincoln University plan has already been garnering attention, and we look forward to issuing peace officer licenses to Lincoln University law enforcement academy graduates in the months ahead.”

The POST Commission granted preliminary approval for Lincoln University’s proposed basic training academy on October 5. Director Karsten and POST program staff conducted site visits on October 16 and November 18, during which reviews were conducted of planned policies and procedures, proposed courses, lesson plans, instructor qualifications, and the academy’s advisory board.

Lincoln University currently offers a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice. The law enforcement training academy will be part of Lincoln's criminal justice program and allow students to pursue Missouri peace officer licenses while earning their academic degrees. It will also accept training academy recruits who are not pursuing academic degrees. Lincoln University says it will strive to recruit a minimum of eight students per academy class and 16 students per academic year after the academy’s first year.

Lincoln University's research shows that of more than 100 HBCUs in the United States, none offer a law enforcement academy program.

The Lincoln University basic training center is the 20th law enforcement academy to be licensed in Missouri. A complete list of the other state licensed basic training centers is available [here](#). Lincoln University plans to enroll its first recruit class in January 2021. Pictures from today's signing ceremony will be available on [Flickr](#).

Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission votes to require law enforcement recruits be educated in history of policing in minority communities in the U.S.

JEFFERSON CITY – The **Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission** today voted to require that Missouri law enforcement academies begin educating all law enforcement recruits in the history of policing in minority communities in the U.S. The two-hour block of instruction would cover policing from the founding of the nation through the present. The measure was unanimously approved.

"I believe providing this training in the history of policing for Missouri officers can help create a better understanding of some of the underlying reasons for conflict and distrust that can exist between law enforcement and minority communities, and can help create better relations going forward," said **POST Commissioner and Lincoln University Police Chief Gary Hill**. Chief Hill was a member of the POST subcommittee that spent the last two months studying the issue.

"This is an important issue and a good addition to our training curriculum that I believe will benefit all of us," said **POST Commissioner and Jefferson County Sheriff Dave Marshak**. "The more voices and perspectives that we're exposed to the greater the potential for trust and reconciliation." Sheriff Marshak was also a member of the subcommittee that studied the issue.

The two-hour curriculum is currently being developed and will become part of the mandatory basic training curriculum six months after being shared with Missouri's 20 law enforcement basic training academies. According to state statute, Missouri law enforcement officers must receive at least 600 hours of basic training. The POST commission sets minimum standards for the basic training of peace officers in Missouri.

At its Oct. 5 meeting, the POST commission voted to require annual training in de-escalation techniques and recognizing implicit bias for all Missouri law enforcement officers as part of their required 24-hours of annual continuing education training. At the meeting, the commission also granted preliminary

approve of **Lincoln University**'s proposed law enforcement basic training academy. This morning, **Governor Mike Parson** and **Department of Public Safety Director Sandy Karsten** signed the license for the Lincoln University academy, the first in the nation to be granted at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

Mayor Lucas Calls for Extension of Eviction Moratorium

Evictions tied to hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 cases, [research suggests](#)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas today wrote to the Honorable J. Dale Youngs, Presiding Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit, encouraging him to extend the eviction moratorium in Jackson County as a matter of public health—halting all filings, hearings, writs, enforcement, and garnishments, with narrow exceptions—for at least the first six months of 2021. Mayor Lucas will equally encourage the courts in Cass, Clay, and Platte Counties to extend eviction moratoriums for Kansas Citians.

In September, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a federal eviction moratorium, which expires at the end of this year.

“The COVID-19 crisis hit Jackson County hard,” **wrote Mayor Lucas**. “Evictions cause serious health and economic crises, exacerbating harms from the pandemic itself. Homelessness and relocation stress add another barrier for the unemployed and working class as they strive to enter the workforce. Further, landlords file evictions at disproportionate rates in Black and Brown neighborhoods, reinforcing decades of racial inequities.”

“Eviction is already a fundamentally traumatic event, both a cause and a condition of poverty,” **continued Mayor Lucas**. “The pandemic only adds more anguish. Although I speak for all Kansas Citians facing poverty, evictions pose even greater risks to Black Kansas Citians, who are one-third of COVID deaths in the state, but only 11.5 percent of the population. These are among the most important public health and economic interventions our community will ever make. I ask for your consideration.”

“Public health experts and elected officials told us to stay healthy by staying at home, but now court-ordered evictions are forcing us from our homes,” **said KC**

Tenants Leader Jenay Manley. “It doesn't have to be this way. The courts can and should end evictions to save lives.”

Beginning this Wednesday, December 16, open Mid-Continent Public Library branches* will alter their hours, offering curbside and drive-through services only on the following days and times:

1. Monday–Thursday: 11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
2. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
3. Sunday: Closed

The temporary new schedule allows Library staff to work in smaller, alternating shifts, mitigating exposure to one another, and ultimately decreasing the risk of branch closures. Developed in response to growing staffing challenges related to the pandemic, the new hours will remain in effect until further notice.

“We know this schedule is certainly not ideal, but we also know that closing our branches due to outbreaks is even more inconvenient for our customers,” said MCPL Director and CEO Steven V. Potter. “Right now, we are doing everything we can to balance health and safety with customer service, and we hope these hours will help us do that.”

MCPL paused its in-branch services on Monday, November 23, after numerous branches closed due to staff members testing positive for the virus. Wi-Fi continues to be available outside each of the branches, and the Library’s online offerings are available 24/7. Outdoor book drops also remain open 24/7 for customers to return materials. At one point during November 10 MCPL branches were closed due to COVID-19 exposure. Additional staff outbreaks could impact the Library’s ability to continue operating its facilities.

More information about MCPL’s ongoing precautions and procedures can be found at mymcpl.org/COVID.

Spire creates new assistance program for Missouri small businesses impacted by coronavirus pandemic

*With 98% of small businesses impacted financially,
the natural gas provider offers up to \$500 in assistance*

ST. LOUIS (Dec. 8, 2020) — Spire is offering a new financial assistance option of up to \$500 for active, Missouri small businesses struggling due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Spire will begin accepting applications for the new Small Business Pandemic Relief Program the week of Dec. 14.

The assistance is crucial as a recent study conducted by Spire of small business customers found 98% have been impacted financially by coronavirus. Many of these small businesses are restaurants working through public health precautions and social distancing practices related to the pandemic.

“Small businesses are an important part of our community, making up almost half of Missouri’s private sector jobs and playing a significant role in the state’s economy,” said Scott Carter, president of Spire Missouri. “We want to do our part to help.”

To be eligible for the program, a business must be an active, Missouri customer in the small general services rate class, be a locally owned business or franchise, and complete an online application. If accepted into the program, small businesses can receive \$100 per month for up to five months. The program runs through Sept. 30, 2021, or until funds are exhausted.

“Young’s Restaurant & Catering Company, Inc. has been around since 1954,” said Grant Young, owner of the Valley Park, Missouri establishment. “Even as a longstanding family-owned business, we have felt the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Carryout is only 40% of our normal business. We’ve been able to keep everyone employed and our doors open because of support from loyal customers who purchase gift cards and patronize us regularly. As we approach another rough patch, I appreciate Spire stepping up and offering assistance. Every bit helps right now.”

Approved Dec. 2 by the Missouri Public Service Commission, the Small Business Pandemic Relief Program is part of the company’s comprehensive approach to provide relief for customers who are experiencing hardship due to the coronavirus

pandemic. In November, the natural gas provider began offering up to \$400 in assistance for Missouri residential customers who have been furloughed or experienced job or income loss and have an outstanding balance on their Spire account. Additionally, Spire previously launched one-time credit assistance programs for both Missouri residential and small business customers.

“From the beginning of the pandemic, we’ve been committed to ensuring our community maintains access to affordable, reliable, clean natural gas,” said Carter. “We encourage customers who are struggling to call us. We are here to help.”

To apply or learn more about the new program or other ways Spire is helping customers impacted by the pandemic, visit SpireEnergy.com/relief.



*Helping you stay safe this
Holiday Season!*

FREE COVID TESTING
FREE FLU SHOTS

Location:

Robert J. Mohart Center
3200 Wayne Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64109

Date:

Saturday, December 19th

Time:

11:00am - 2:30pm

For Information:

DaRon McGee
dmcgee@cb-kc.org

A Special Thanks to Our Community Partners:





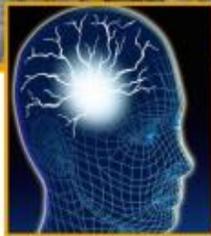
Be a part of the 12th Annual

Grandview C-4

Trivia Night

Thursday, January 14, 2021

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



TRIVIA NIGHT IS GOING VIRTUAL!

Presented by Grandview Education Foundation.

Supports teacher grants, student scholarships and programs.

Hosted through TriviaHub, join us for a competitive game of fun!

Gather your team through a Zoom platform (together or apart).

More information on team dynamics available after registration is received.

Win the coveted BRAIN TROPHY!

BE A SPONSOR Circle level, or visit <https://bit.ly/GEFTriviaNight> to pay online.

Mensa - \$1,000 Genius - \$500

Brainiac - \$250 Know-It-All - \$100

FORM A TEAM \$100 for a team of up to 8 players. All Welcome!

Clever team names, uniforms, cheers, and more will be applauded and awarded! Registration is available online at: <https://bit.ly/GEFTriviaNight>

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. Thank you for your consideration!

Item _____

Retail Value \$ _____

Contact Mary King, 816-977-5765, to arrange pickup of item, or arrange to drop-off.

Sponsors, donors and teams will be recognized throughout evening.



Need Help Paying for Internet?

The [Internet Access Support Program](#) has funds available to pay for Internet service. If COVID has made it more difficult for you to afford Internet, the IASP can help you:

1. Establish new service
2. Pay off an old balance
3. Pay for ongoing service

The IASP can pay for up to 6 months of service. The program is only open to families with limited income. To qualify, you need to earn less than 2x the federal poverty rate.

Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis. So do not wait. Apply now! Visit kconnect.me or call **(816) 200-0599** to apply.

Harvest Report



Select
Saturdays
9:00 AM - Noon

NOVEMBER
7th, 14th, 21st

DECEMBER
5th, 12th, 19th

JANUARY
2nd, 16th

FEBRUARY
6th, 20th

MARCH
6th, 20th

Winter Market

HJ's Community Center
6425 Wornall Road

SUSTAINABLE FARMS
ARTISAN FOOD
LOCAL PRODUCE
HOLIDAY GIFTS

sponsored by



www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com

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.

1 of 1



COVID-19

FREE TESTING CLINIC

Testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals

Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred



Monday - Friday

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Lunch will be held from 11:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.,
and there will not be testing during this time.*

Visit jaco hd.org/events to see
dates + locations and to register.

Testing provided by the Jackson County Health Department

Truman Medical Centers has available services for Jackson County residents during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

If you are experiencing a fever, a new cough or new shortness of breath, you can call **404-CARE (2273)** and speak to a health care professional to be screened for COVID-19.



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:

1. Your Social Security number;
2. Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions;
3. The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
4. 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



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