



Capitol Report

February 18, 2021

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Dear Neighbor,

This was an abbreviated week in the House as session was cancelled on Monday and Tuesday due to inclement weather. We reconvened on Wednesday and Thursday to work on legislation in various committees.

A bi-partisan bill was advanced in committee to prevent nearly 46,000 Missourians from being forced to repay as much as \$150 million in mistakenly paid Missouri unemployment benefits that were received by recipients through no fault of their own. Much of the money came from the Federal CARES Act that has a provision that allows states to waive overpayments that are not related to fraudulent claims.

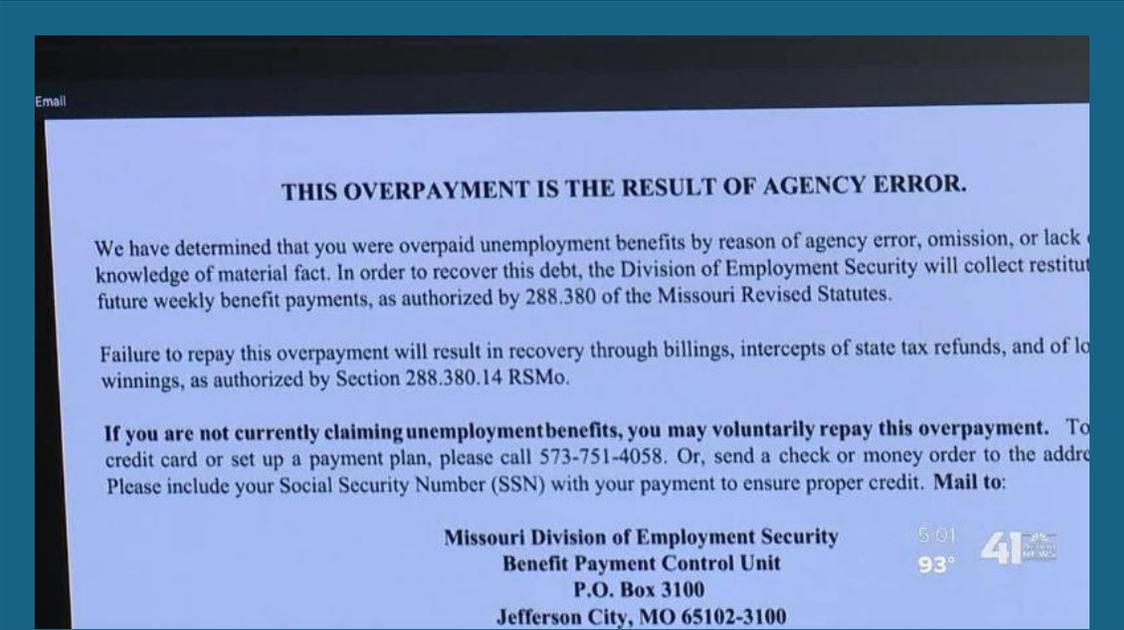
I have fought for the people of our state who have fallen into this category because the intent of these federal funds was to give relief to those families who were in financial dire due to the loss of jobs during the pandemic. These funds were given to by the federal government to stimulate the economy of our nation and many of those persons that received the money simply don't have it to repay. I have one

constituent in particular that is being asked to repay nearly \$24,000 that she received through no fault of her own. The state has admitted it was their error in sending out the payments and is now demanding repayment. **THIS IS WRONG!**

I continue to be your voice in Jefferson City and will do what I believe is right for our citizens. If you are one of these individuals affected by the overpayments, I would like to hear from you. Continue to stay safe and warm and know that I am here for you.

Yours in Service,

Rich



The image shows a screenshot of an email with a white background and a dark blue border. The email text is as follows:

THIS OVERPAYMENT IS THE RESULT OF AGENCY ERROR.

We have determined that you were overpaid unemployment benefits by reason of agency error, omission, or lack of knowledge of material fact. In order to recover this debt, the Division of Employment Security will collect restitution from your future weekly benefit payments, as authorized by 288.380 of the Missouri Revised Statutes.

Failure to repay this overpayment will result in recovery through billings, intercepts of state tax refunds, and of lottery winnings, as authorized by Section 288.380.14 RSMo.

If you are not currently claiming unemployment benefits, you may voluntarily repay this overpayment. To repay by credit card or set up a payment plan, please call 573-751-4058. Or, send a check or money order to the address below. Please include your Social Security Number (SSN) with your payment to ensure proper credit. **Mail to:**

**Missouri Division of Employment Security
Benefit Payment Control Unit
P.O. Box 3100
Jefferson City, MO 65102-3100**

In the bottom right corner of the email screenshot, there is a weather widget showing "5:01 93°" and a "41" logo.

**COMMITTEE PASSES BILL TO ADDRESS
BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS**

A House committee on Feb. 17 voted 7-1 to advance bipartisan legislation to block Gov. Mike Parson's administration from forcing tens of thousands of unemployed Missourians to collectively repay as much as \$150 million in excess benefits the administration mistakenly paid out last year as unemployment skyrocketed due to the pandemic.

The Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations has admitted that 97.7 percent of the overpayments did not involve fraud and instead resulted from mistakes by the department. The overpayments largely involved federal pandemic funds, and the Federal Department of Labor has authorized states to waive repayment from people who, through no fault of their own, were given excess benefits.

House Bill 1083, which combined similar bills filed by both Democrats and Republicans, would require the department to forgo the recovery of non-fraudulent overpayments of federal unemployment funds. The committee also voted 7-1 to pass House Concurrent Resolution 30, a Democratic proposal urging the Parson administration to waive repayment on his own authority without requiring a change in state law. To date, the governor has insisted the excess benefits must be repaid, even though many recipients lack the means to do so.

KANSAS CITY'S NEW EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Application process announcement mid-February

IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

These agencies have city-provided funds available now for rent and/or utility help:

- **Journey to New Life** - (816) 960-4808
- **Metro Lutheran Ministries** - (816) 285-3137 (north)
(816) 285-3139 (south)
- **Greater KC Housing Info Center** - (816) 931-0443
- **Guadalupe Center** - (816) 421-1015
- **Save, Inc.** - (816) 531-8340, ext. 260



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

[KCMO.GOV/RentHelp](https://kcmo.gov/RentHelp)



Need food and hygiene items, emergency rent or utilities assistance, diapers or pull-ups, help with medicines and medical devices?

CAC may be able to help.

Click [HERE](#) for more information

Harvesters Community Food Network

Click [HERE](#) to find service in your area

Spire - Natural Gas Assistance

Click [HERE](#)

The IRS and Missouri Department of Revenue will begin accepting e-filed returns for the 2020 tax year on **Feb. 12, 2021.**

[Click here for more information](#)



Despite the capitol being closed on Monday and Tuesday due to the weather, I still made it into work on both days.



House Legislative Dashboard



I honored the memory of Carol Coe on the House Floor this week by reading from House Resolution 258 that I offered to recognize her life's work for the people of Kansas City.

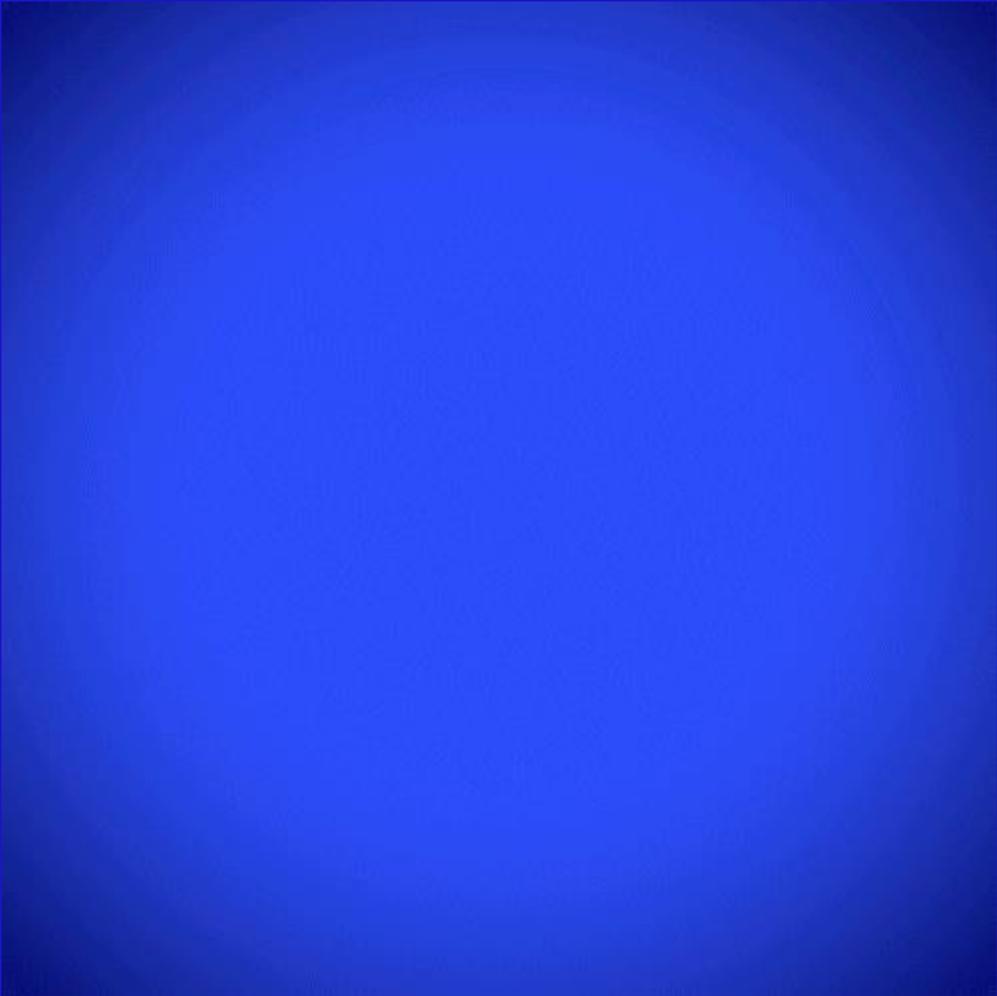
COVID-19 vaccine website

Missouri has launched a new vaccine website, which answers common questions and clarifies what it calls misinformation.

The new website is mostopscovid.com, and provides Missourians with information about the safety of the vaccines, research and production processes and when they could be eligible for vaccination.



[Click Here for Frequently asked questions & answers about the COVID-19 vaccine](#)



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is hosting several testing events in the Kansas City area. These testing events are separate from the KCMO Health Department. [You must register online.](#) DO NOT call 311 to register for the following events.

Monday, Feb. 22

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center 9 a.m. - 3p.m.

3700 Blue Parkway, KCMO 64130

Monday, Feb. 22

Bartle Hall (front entrance on 13th Street) 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

301 W. 13th Street, KCMO 64105

Wednesday, Feb. 24

Worlds of Fun Main Entrance 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

4545 Worlds of Fun Ave., KCMO 64161

Friday, Feb. 26

Kansas City Zoo (Cheetah Parking Lot) 12 p.m. - 4p.m.

6800 Zoo Dr., KCMO 64132

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.



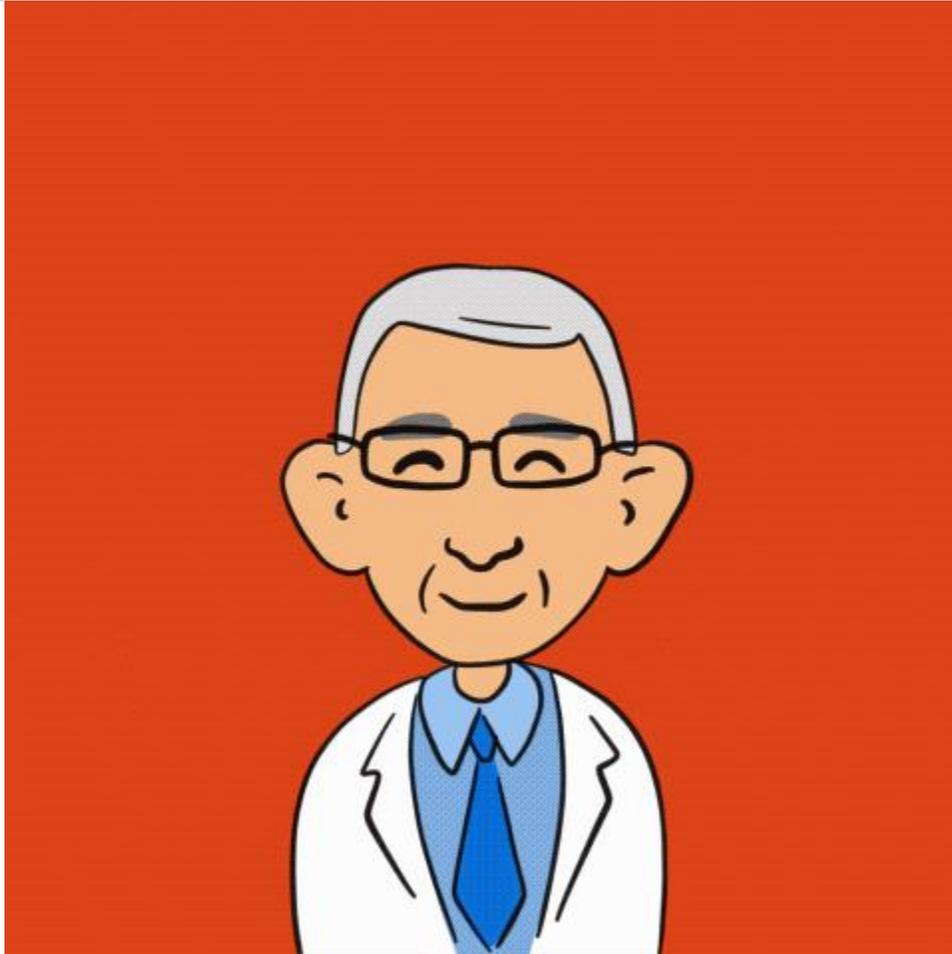
[Click Here to get on the Wait List for COVID 19 Vaccine at Truman Medical Center.](#)



BLACK HISTORY
is not a month
IT'S A LIFETIME



Wearing is Caring



**As of the time I have sent this mailing, there have been
35 homicides in the Kansas City metro area in 2021.**

In Kansas City, Missouri, 19 people have been killed.

[Click here for the Homicide Tracker.](#)



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



In Memoriam



Carol Coe
Former KCMO City Councilwoman
1947 - 2021

The reward has been raised to
\$30,000 for Dominic



**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator

SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide

KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.

Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother

were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.

KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at www.KCcrimestoppers.com, or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards

Tips Hotline

816-474-8477

Web Tips

www.KCcrimestoppers.com

Free Mobile App

www.P3Tips.com

* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.



Rep. Richard Brown

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

MO House of Representatives

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

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