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**Capitol Report**

**January 27, 2023**

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[Email](#) | [Web Page](#) | [Bills Sponsored](#) | [District 27](#)

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***Dear Neighbor,***

This week I sat in the General Laws Committee from 4:30 PM until 1:40 AM listening to 8 bills that target transgender children. Needless to say, we continue to see this type of legislation introduced into committees, but what alarms me is these were among the first pieces of proposed legislation introduced this session. I have and always will oppose this type of discriminatory legislation.

During the off-session, I spoke with Missourians around the state and most frequently I heard people talk about their home property taxes. I

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heard people talk about crime and their own fears for their personal safety. I also heard from people who were concerned with the continuing high cost of everyday living. But instead, the first thing we are debating is deprivation of medical services to children and trying to impose laws over women and girls sports instead of letting the regulatory bodies such as the Missouri High School Athletic Association or the NCAA or NAIA govern according to their rules.

I want you to know that I hear your concerns. I am co-sponsor of [HJR 27](#) which authorizes counties to freeze the real property assessed values of certain senior citizens. I have a particular interest in this piece of legislation because I believe it is fair and equitable to all seniors in our state and should be appealing to members of both parties. It is my hope that we can pass this legislation or something similar for our seniors. In my opinion, this is a good starting point for homeowners across the state.

***Yours in Service,***

***Rich***

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## House Legislative Dashboard



Missouri GOP bills targeting transgender people and drag shows draw fire

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[Jack Suntrup](#), [Kurt Erickson](#)

JEFFERSON CITY — Missourians descended Tuesday on the Capitol to speak out against a wave of Republican-backed bills aimed at transgender children and drag shows, what one advocacy group characterized as a “direct hate attack” on the state’s LGBTQ community.

GOP lawmakers placed eight LGBTQ-related bills on the agenda for a Tuesday hearing of the House General Laws Committee. In the Senate, lawmakers considered legislation to keep transgender girls out of girls sports.

The timing of the hearings so early in the Legislature’s annual session reflected the priority Missouri Republicans have placed on addressing controversial culture war topics ahead of the next election.

Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a Republican weighing a bid for governor in 2024, testified in favor of House legislation to ban transgender girls from girls sports, suggesting it was a matter of fairness.

[Continue Reading](#)

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Cheryl Lynne Dozier is with Richard Brown.

13h · 🌐



MLBC member and Assistant Minority Floor Leader Representative [Richard Brown](#) as he listens to testimony at 1:31 am in House General Laws Committee.







## House committee endorses gutting the initiative process

On straight party-line votes, the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee on Jan. 26 voted to advance four proposed constitutional amendments that either seek to effectively gut the initiative petition process, make it more difficult to amend the Missouri Constitution or both. Majority Republicans supported the measures, while minority Democrats opposed them.

The initiative petition process empowers Missourians to propose and enact legislation independently of the legislature. In recent years, it successfully has been used to enact several issues the Republican-controlled General Assembly had long blocked, including Medicaid expansion, legislative ethics reform and legalizing medical and adult recreational marijuana use.

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As result of being bypassed on these and other issues they oppose, Republicans have prioritized making it virtually impossible to enact laws or constitutional changes through the initiative. While some measures would raise the minimum number of signatures required for an initiative to qualify for the ballot, most would impose some kind of supermajority requirement for ratifying constitutional amendments, thus allowing a minority of voters to thwart the will of the majority.

The more straightforward of the proposals would require a two-thirds supermajority of votes cast for ratification. Others are more creative, with one requiring the support of both a simple majority of the statewide vote and majority approval in at least 82 of Missouri's 163 House Districts to effectively create a rural veto. Two proposals would require amendments to receive support from a simple majority of registered voters, rather than of votes cast, which would set such a high ratification threshold that nearly all ballot measures would fail – even those that somehow managed to achieve 100 percent voter support.

Most of the supermajority requirements would apply only to amendments proposed by the initiative process, while those the legislature put on the ballot could still pass with a simple majority of votes cast. Any of the measures that clear the legislature automatically would go on the November 2024 ballot for voter ratification using the existing simple-majority threshold.

Because restricting or eliminating the initiative process likely isn't popular, the proposals include deceptive ballot language falsely telling voters they would allow only U.S. citizens to vote on ballot measures. However, the Missouri Constitution already restricts voting to citizens.

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## **Senate panel considers eliminating corporate income tax**

On the heels of a \$2-billion-a-year individual income tax cut primarily benefiting the wealthy that's expected to put Missouri government on shaky financial ground within the next couple years, the Senate Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee on Jan. 24 heard legislation to completely eliminate the state's corporate income tax. Doing away with the tax is estimated to cost the state another \$712.14 million a year in lost revenue.

Missouri first enacted its corporate income tax, along with the state's individual income tax, in 1917. The corporate rate topped out at 6.25 percent in 1993 and remained at that level until a series of reductions over the last decade dropped it to the current rate of 4 percent. Starting in 2024, Senate Bill 93 would reduce the corporate rate by one percentage point each year until the tax was completely eliminated in 2027.

The committee also considered a proposed constitutional amendment, Senate Joint Resolution 3, to authorize the legislature to levy sales taxes on digital services, licenses and subscriptions. Such taxes currently are prohibited under an earlier constitutional amendment Missouri voters ratified in 2016 with 57



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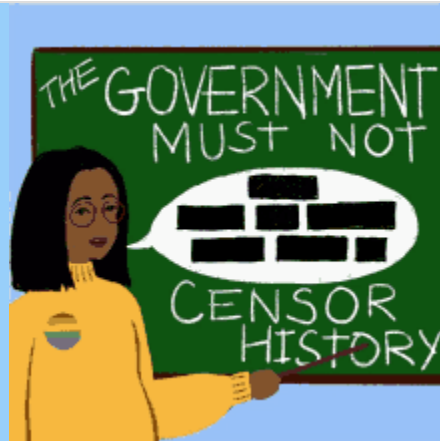
percent support. The committee took no immediate action on either SJR 3 or SB 93, both of which are sponsored by Republicans

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I had the opportunity to meet some of the staff and employees of Southeast Enterprises on their trip to the Capitol on Tuesday. As a parent of a child with a developmental disability, I have always worked to assist and protect our most vulnerable citizens.

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## **Committee advances prohibition on teaching about racism**

The Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee on Nov. 24 voted for a bill that would prohibit public schools from teaching about the past and present impact of racism on society and require them to teach “the principles of American civics and patriotism.”

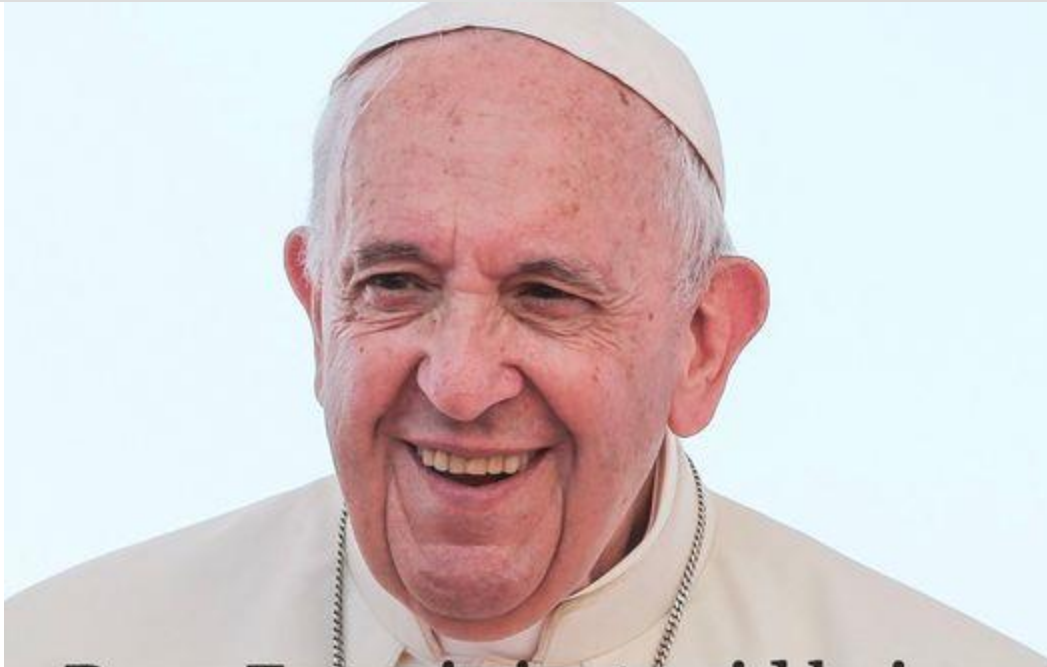
Senate Bill 4 would ban K-12 schools from teaching “critical race theory,” a concept taught in some law schools that examines racism’s impact on institutions but that is not taught in Missouri elementary or secondary schools. However, many Republican lawmakers here and elsewhere commonly mischaracterize CRT in an effort to prohibit any discussion of race or racism in public schools.



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Mayor Quinton Lucas and Community Activist  
Justice Horn visited the Capitol this week.

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**Pope Francis just said being  
homosexual isn't a crime  
and called upon all countries  
with such laws— 67 of them  
in total—to decriminalize.**

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## Can't afford a funeral for a loved one? Here's where to get financial help

The median cost of a funeral in the United States — including a viewing and burial — ranged from \$7,640 to more than \$9,000 in 2019, the most recent year for which numbers are available. That didn't include cemetery cost, the price of a headstone and miscellaneous items that have to be paid for on the spot, including flowers and the obituary, according to the National Funeral Directors Association. So what happens when a family can't pay? Some religious organizations will help active members with funeral costs; check with their fundraising office to see if that's available. GoFundMe, the crowdsourcing platform, is also widely used. Funeral homes can direct families to crime victim funds and other government programs that can help them pay for services they can't afford.



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## CRIME VICTIMS

- In Kansas, the Kansas Crime Victims Compensation Board provides reimbursement for the partial cost of a funeral, burial or cremation of a victim — up to \$5,000 — through the Attorney General's Office. [ag.ks.gov](http://ag.ks.gov). 785-296-2359.
- In Missouri, Crime Victims' Compensation administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety offers a maximum of \$5,000 for funeral expenses for victims, if eligible. [dps.mo.gov](http://dps.mo.gov). 573-526-6006 or 800-347-6881.

## INDIGENT RESIDENTS

Some local governments step in to make funeral arrangements — almost always cremation — for people who have no family, assets or money. The help is seen as a last resort. Missouri offers benefits that Kansas does not. In Platte County, for example, the Public Administrator's Office manages the county's indigent fund, which, in specific situations, can help with limited end of life services for indigent people who die in the county, said administrator Shanna L. Burns.

Here are some sources in the Kansas City area, listed on the website of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Kansas City, [funeralskc.org](http://funeralskc.org):

- Jackson County: County counselor's office, 816-881-3355.
- Platte County: Public administrator's office, 816-858-2130.
- Clay County: Public administrator's office, 816-407-3250.

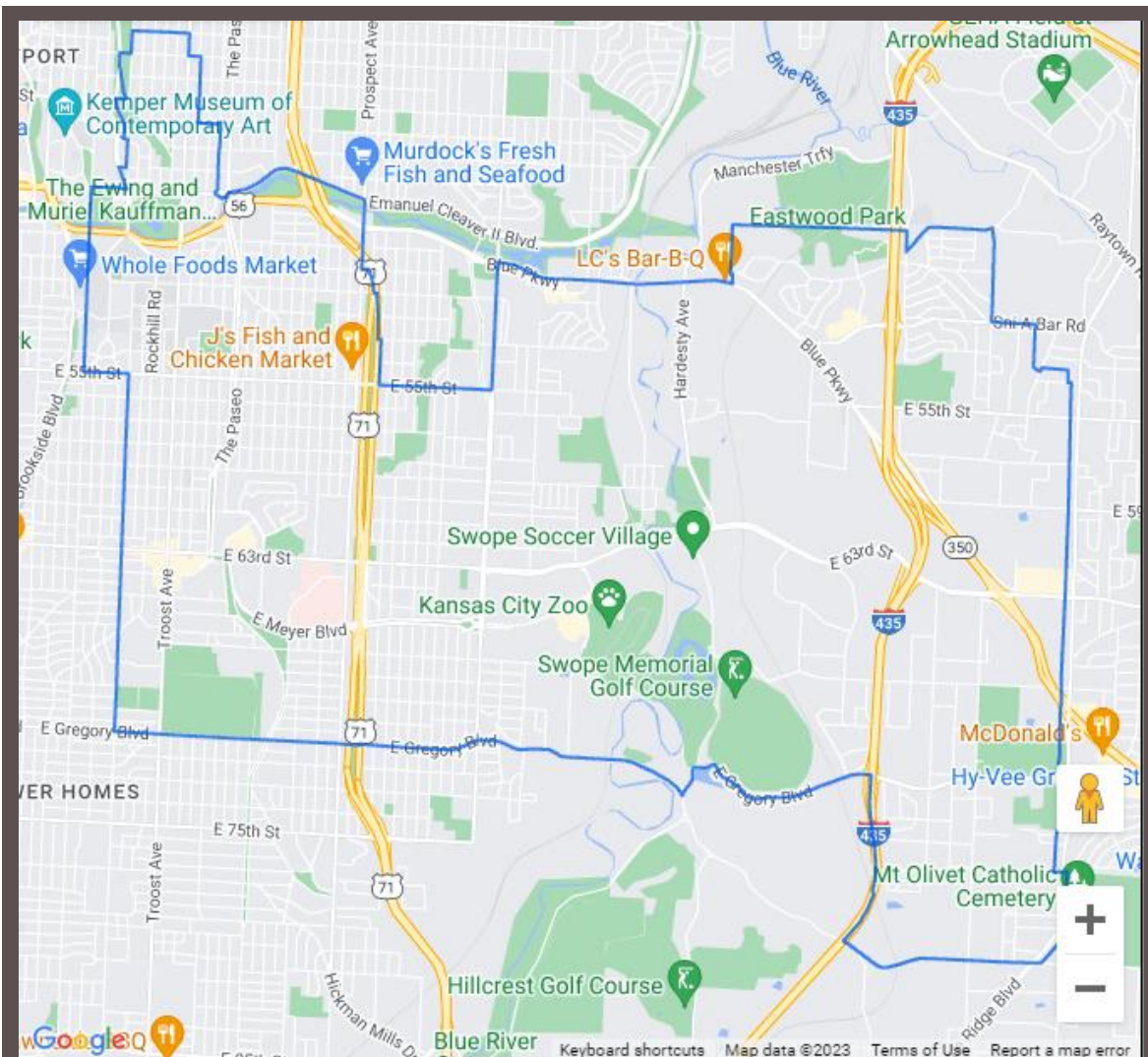
## VETERANS

Benefits for veterans include a grave site in any national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker and burial flag — free to the family. Some burial benefits are also available to spouses. Funeral or cremation arrangements, not covered by this benefit, should be made with a funeral provider or cremation office. The benefits are detailed in the Department of Veterans Affairs' Planning Your Legacy: VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit. <http://www.cem.va.gov>. 800-827-1000.

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## ONE-TIME SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENT

If the deceased has received Social Security benefits, family members could be eligible for a one-time payment of \$225. Eligibility requirements are on the Social Security website, [ssa.gov/benefits/survivors](https://ssa.gov/benefits/survivors).



This is the map of the new boundaries for House District 27.  
This map will be in effect for the next ten years.



The number of Mass Shootings is unacceptable. These are the Mass Shootings in the United States this year and it's only January!

PEACE FOR 🇺🇸 UKRAINE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





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# FIFTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

**Monday, February 6, 2023  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Southeast Community Center,  
4601 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64130**

## WITH GUEST SPEAKER(S):

**Name: Chief Stacey Graves  
Title: Chief of Police, Kansas City Police Department  
Topic: Introduction**

**Name: Krista Morrison  
Title: Budget Officer, City of Kansas City, MO  
Topic: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget public meeting schedule**

**Name: Wes Minder & Celeste Chaney-Tucker  
Title: Director & Deputy Director, Water Services  
Topic: Water Main Break update**

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# SOUTH KANSAS CITY FOOD PANTRIES

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

**Community Assistance Council**, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org) for appointments or questions.

**Red Bridge Area Food Pantry**, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

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. 103<sup>rd</sup> 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

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Wednesday of the month.

**Ruskin High School**, 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 3:30 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. 117<sup>th</sup> 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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# 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**

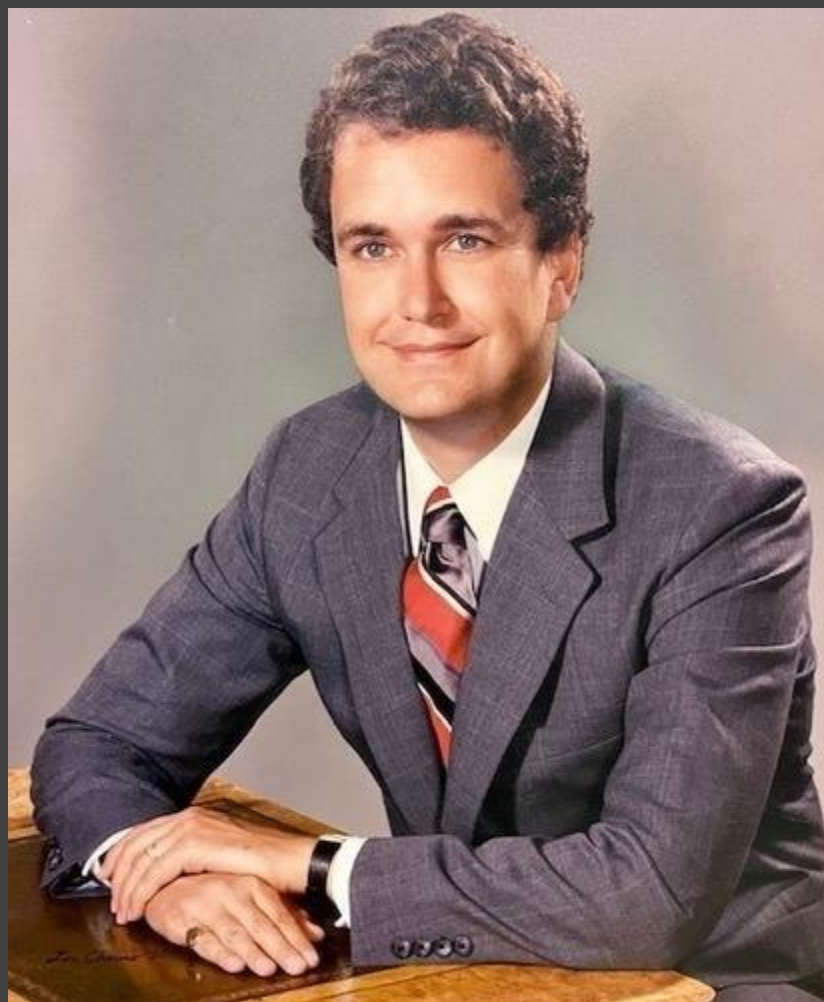
(Since Medicaid was expanded to include more people,  
you could be eligible!)



**swope**HEALTH







## **JIM BARNES**

**1951 - 2023**

Missouri House of Representatives from 1978 to 1996 and was former Speaker Pro Tem. He was a friend and trusted advisor. I will miss him.

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

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**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**

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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](http://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](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**

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\* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

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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 Gentzsch 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.

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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.



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## Rep. Richard Brown

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

MO House of Representatives

201 West Capitol Avenue

Room 134

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

[richard.brown@house.mo.gov](mailto:richard.brown@house.mo.gov)

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