



Capitol Report

February 9, 2023

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Dear Neighbor,

This has been an unbelievable week as the House passed, in my opinion, a piece of legislation being described as a Public Safety bill but does little to ensure the public's safety. Instead, this bill allows non-violent offenders to won guns in our state; removes the definition of a rifle and allows children to carry guns. Yes, allows children to

carry guns. Members of the Missouri Black Legislative Caucus from St. Louis expressed their discontent for the bill as it allows for the creation of a special prosecutor in St. Louis city (an obvious attack on City Prosecutor Kim Gardner). Many members of the Democratic Caucus describe this bill as "racists." House members were shut down during the debate and could not speak as communities that are directly affected from this legislation are again ignored by the majority caucus. A press conference was held immediately after session today with the House Democrats and you can [view it here](#) to see the reactions of House Democrats.

I will continue to work to move our state forward for all communities and appreciate my colleagues who are in the fight with me.

Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard

First Read:

1174

Third Read:

2

Truly Agreed:

0

Signed By Governor:

0



I will continue to work for you to move our state forward.



KC mom of Missouri inmate locked in prison visitation room for 12 hours

by: [Linda Wagar](#), [Brianna Lanham](#)

Posted: Feb 2, 2023 / 10:21 PM CST

Updated: Feb 3, 2023 / 08:19 AM CST

CAMERON, Mo. — In November, 54-year-old Denice Rainey sat in a small, cubby-like visitation room at Crossroads Correctional Center, staring at her shackled son through barrier glass.

“‘Oh my gosh,’ you know, ‘we’ve been here for a long time,’” she recalled telling her son, who she asked to remain anonymous.

She said she left the isolated room and peered into the larger, public visitation room, but found no other families or inmates visiting.

“I went to go look and everybody was gone, and I tried to get somebody’s attention and then, you know, he (her son) says, ‘Well, don’t worry about it ’cause they’re gonna be doing count soon and they’ll come then,’” she said.

Having arrived around 3:15 p.m. for her visit, it was now about 6:30 p.m.

“The count came and left, and nobody came. Count came and left again, nobody came,” she said.

It wasn’t until about 3:30 a.m., nearly 12 hours after arriving for her visit, that a correctional employee finally noticed Rainey.

By that point, she said she had exhausted her efforts banging on doors, knocking on windows, pushing buttons and yelling for help. She eventually urinated on herself, as there was nowhere to use the restroom.

“And then by the time I had gotten their attention, I had went back out of the room again, I had went out several times, and I came back out of the room and saw somebody, I guess, what he (her son) calls ‘The Bubble,’ and I pushed that button again and they said, ‘Can I help you?’ and I said, ‘Yeah, I’ve been here since 3:30 at visiting time,’ and they started laughing at me,” Rainey said.

[Continue Reading](#)



House approves bill allowing some felons to carry guns

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives on Feb. 9 voted 109-35 to advance legislation to make it legal for many convicted felons to carry firearms and empower the governor to essentially takeover the prosecution of violent crime in St. Louis city, among other provisions. The bill now advances to the Senate.

Under longstanding Missouri law, it is a crime for any convicted felon to purchase or possess firearms. House Bill 301 would restore guns rights to non-violent felons, but possession of firearms would remain a criminal offense for those convicted of violent felonies.

Another provision of the bill would give the governor the authority to appoint a special prosecutor who would have exclusive jurisdiction over most violent crime in St. Louis city,

thus supplanting the elected local prosecutor. The special prosecutor would not have to be a city resident. This provision marks the latest effort by Gov. Mike Parson and legislative Republicans to strip authority from St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner, the only elected Black woman prosecutor in Missouri.

Not coincidentally, the same day lawmakers approved HB 301, the House Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee considered six separate, but similar, bills to strip St. Louis' municipal government of control over its police department and place the agency back under the authority of a state board controlled by the governor. The department had been under state control for more than 150 years until 2012, when 63.9 percent of Missouri voters approved a ballot measure restoring local control.

HB 301 originally contained a provision that would prohibit children from publicly carrying firearms without adult supervision. During committee, however, Republicans stripped it from the bill, claiming it would violate the Second Amendment rights of gun-toting kids. The move was opposed by Democrats, who argued it was one of the bill's few provisions aimed at actually preventing crime rather than addressing prosecutions after crimes have been committed.



House approves \$627.15 million supplemental budget bill

The House of Representatives voted 148-2 on Feb. 9 to grant first-round approval to a nearly \$627.15 million emergency supplemental appropriations bill for the FY 2023 state budget. The bill includes spending authority to provide state workers with an immediate 8.7 percent pay raise.

Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, has asked lawmakers to quickly grant final passage to the bill so the raises can take effect March 1. Parson said the increase is necessary to offset high inflation and help stem a recent exodus of state workers to higher-paying private sector jobs that has left the state with about 7,000 open positions.

Although Parson's original plan also would have provided raises to lawmakers and statewide elected officials, the House Budget Committee stripped those pay bumps from the measure, House Bill 14. A second vote is required to advance the bill to the Senate.



Missouri lawmakers wagering another bet on sports gambling

- [Kurt Erickson](#)

JEFFERSON CITY — After failing to cross the finish line last year, a plan to legalize sports betting in Missouri is back in front of state lawmakers.

With some calling [their 2022 failure an embarrassment](#) amid sports wagering victories in other states like Kansas, representatives from the St. Louis Cardinals, the National Hockey League and other sports clubs urged a panel of lawmakers Wednesday to find a path forward after years of squabbling and inaction.

“We are literally surrounded by folks who can participate in this industry,” said Rep. Ashley Aune, D-Kansas City.

“We want to get this done,” said Rep. Dan Houx, R-Warrensburg, who is sponsoring a legalization proposal.

[Continue Reading](#)



I met with Missouri Supreme Court
Chief Justice Paul C. Wilson this week.



Medicaid official expects enrollment drop as checks resume

Around 200,000 Missourians are expected to lose Medicaid coverage over the next year as the state resumes eligibility checks that had been on hold since 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, MO HealthNet Division Director Mark Richardson told a House appropriations committee on Feb. 1, according to a Feb. 2 story by the Missouri Independent.

Medicaid eligibility status changes frequently, with recipients commonly going on and off the rolls due to income fluctuations. But for the last three years, annual eligibility verification has been on hold to ensure Missourians didn't lose coverage during a public health emergency.

The number of Missourians eligible for Medicaid increased significantly in recent years after voters in 2020 ratified a

constitutional amendment implementing an expansion of the program, known in Missouri as MO HealthNet. Under the federal Affordable Care Act, states can increase their eligibility threshold to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, with the federal government paying 90 percent of the cost for providing services to the expanded population.

According to data from the Missouri Department of Social Services, 300,140 adults had enrolled in MO HealthNet under the expanded eligibility rules as of Feb. 3. DSS reported a total of 1,446,914 Missourians enrolled in the program as of December 2022.



Two state Supreme Court judges to retire later this year

Missouri Supreme Court Judges Patricia Breckenridge and George Draper III will step down later this year when they

reach the state's mandatory judicial retirement age of 70. Chief Justice Paul Wilson announced the pending departures during the annual State of the Judiciary address before a joint session of the General Assembly.

"Combined those two judges have served the people of this state for more than 70 years, first as trial judges, then on the Court of Appeals and now on the Supreme Court," Wilson said. "Both of them have dedicated their lives – not just to the work of the courts – but to the principles of access, fairness and equal justice for all; principles that lie at the heart of our justice system. The courts have benefited immeasurably from their work, and we will miss them dearly."

Breckenridge is the second-longest serving judge currently on the Supreme Court, to which she was appointed by Gov. Matt Blunt, a Republican, in September 2007. She previously served as an associate circuit court judge in Vernon County from 1982 to 1990 and on the Court of Appeals Western District from 1990 to 2007.

Draper was appointed to the Supreme Court in October 2011 by Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat. He earlier served as an associate circuit judge in St. Louis County from 1994 to 1998, a circuit judge from 1998 to 2000 and on the Court of Appeals Eastern District from 2000 to 2011.

Draper will hit the mandatory retirement age in August, with Breckenridge following in October. Both judges took turns serving as the Supreme Court's chief justice, a position that rotates among the court's seven members every two years. Breckenridge held the post from 2015-2017, while Draper did

so from 2019-2021.

Under the state's Nonpartisan Court Plan, the Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission will submit three finalists for each vacancy to Gov. Mike Parson, who must choose from those finalists or forfeit the decision to the commission. Once he fills the pending vacancies, Parson, a Republican, will have appointed three members of the seven-member Supreme Court.



Attempted fraud scheme skews January revenue figures

An attempted fraud scheme made it appear net state general revenue collections for January 2023 had jumped a whopping 55.1 percent compared to January 2022, according a Feb. 8 news release Missouri Office of Budget and Planning announcing the state revenue collections for the month. The release made just a passing reference to the fraud in a

footnote noting that the reported January collections are inaccurate because of it.

However, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch later reported the Missouri Department of Revenue discovered scheme when it received a flood of fraudulent tax payments in late January. A department spokeswoman told the paper the false payments were intended to trigger refunds from the department's payment system but that no taxpayer money was lost.

Before the fraud skewed the numbers, revenue collections had been expected to plummet in January with the implementation of a massive income tax cut the legislature enacted last fall.

State budget officials said the reversal of the fraudulent payments will be reflected in the February revenue numbers.

MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES
Timeline of Missouri's African American History

[Click here to read about Missouri Black History.](#)



MEDICAID UPDATE

Medicaid Annual Renewals to Restart April 1,
2023

Since COVID hit, we have been in a Public Health Emergency (PHE).

As part of the PHE, Missouri has not been able to disenroll anyone
from Medicaid except in very limited circumstances.

The federal government is ending the PHE for Medicaid on April 1, and

Missouri will start the process of reviewing eligibility for all Medicaid participants. Participants will be processed by their renewal month (generally the month the family initially signed up for Medicaid).

Get ready for renewals by keeping your contact information up to date so you can get important updates in the mail. **If your address has changed in the last 3 years, you will need to notify the Family Support Division.** You can update your address [online](#), at a [Family Services Division office](#), or by calling 855-373-4636.

You will receive a letter in the mail sometime between April 2023 and April 2024. You can check the [annual renewal timeline](#) to find out when you should expect to get your letter. This letter will tell you what, if anything, you need to do next. If a response is required, make sure to submit it by the deadline so you do not risk losing your healthcare coverage.

Important Medicaid Alert

Missouri will be restarting
Medicaid eligibility renewals
on April 1, 2023.



PREPARE TO RENEW

Beginning April 1, the Family Support Division will again be required to check the eligibility of all MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) participants each year. This is called a Medicaid eligibility renewal, or annual renewal. Follow these steps to make sure you complete your renewal on time:



Report changes, like a
new address, to the
Family Support Division



Watch for an annual
renewal form or letter in
the mail



Complete renewal form
(if you get one) by the
deadline in letter

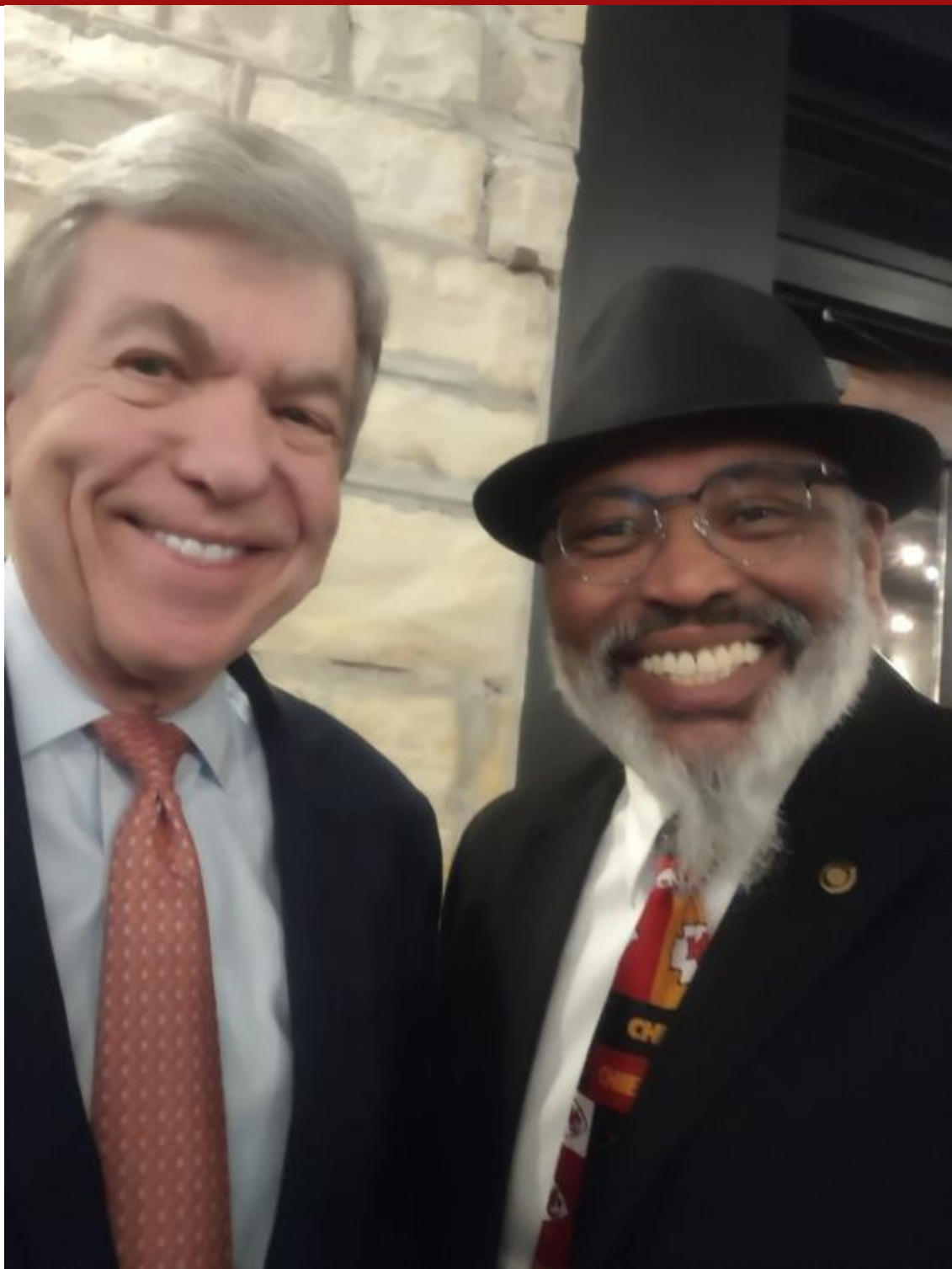
Learn more about renewals and update your address at mydss.mo.gov/renew.



Missouri Department of
SOCIAL SERVICES

Learn more
mydss.mo.gov/renew





I met this week with former US Senator Roy Blunt.



CELEBRATING **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**VIRTUAL ZOOM
LUNCH & LEARN
SPEAKER SERIES**



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

ALVIN BROOKS
FORMER KC MAYOR PRO TEM

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/87087335286](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/87087335286)



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 12-1 P.M.

GWEN GRANT
PRESIDENT & CEO, URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/83124744873](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/83124744873)



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, 12-1 P.M.

ERIC WESSON
MANAGING EDITOR & PUBLISHER, THE KANSAS CITY CALL

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/81848350358](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/81848350358)



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 12-1 P.M.

BRIDGETTE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT & CEO, HEAVY CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/82542417907](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/82542417907)

RIGHT TO COUNSEL

FREE Legal Services for Tenants Facing Eviction



**KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI**



KC is the **13th city**
to offer this service free



Helped 100s of families
Since launching June 1

**JACKSON COUNTY
HOUSING COURT
EVICTION RATE**



without RtC

99%

VS

with RtC

<20%

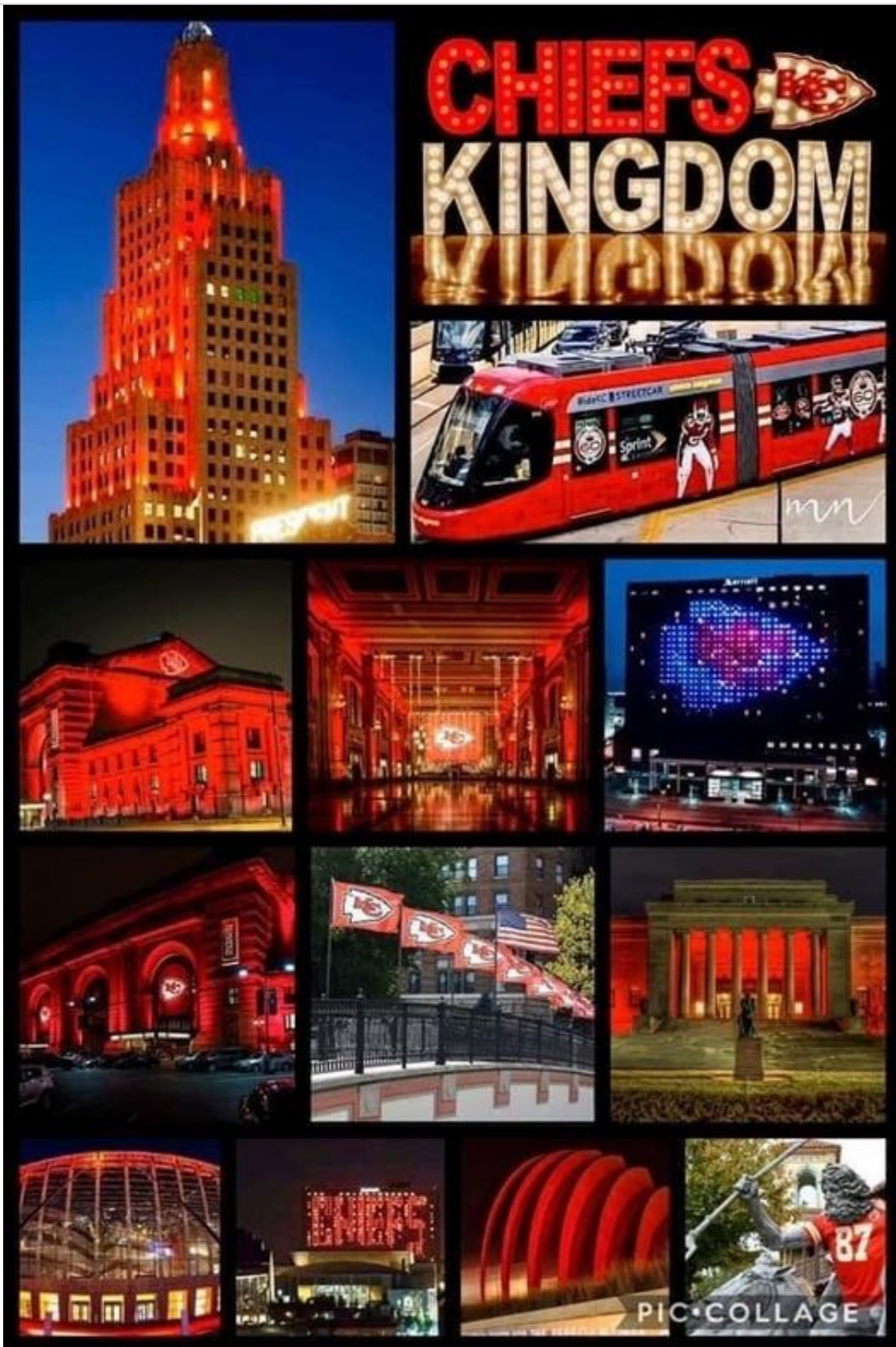
816-474-5112 | gkcassistanceprogram.org/EvictionDefense/



PEACE FOR UKRAINE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





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 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. 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 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. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



Congratulations are in order as
Terese Spears Chambers and I announce our engagement.

**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 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.

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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Room 134

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

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

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