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**Capitol Report**

**January 12, 2022**

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## *Dear Neighbor,*

Happy New Year! As the 102nd Legislative session opens, I am optimistic for the future. The legislative session began on January 4, and I was sworn in for my fourth term last week. These past six years have gone by so quickly. As we enter the new legislative year, my priorities are fixed on saving lives, protecting democracy and investing in Missourians.

The uptick in gun violence across our state should be of concern to all of our citizens. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Missouri ranked 4th in the country for gun violence. We ranked 17th in 2005. I am a believer in the Second Amendment, but I believe that we need common sense gun legislation to help combat the problem. This include the prohibition of persons convicted of domestic abuse from owning a firearm to allowing local municipalites enact their own gun legislation. Both of these issues are adressed in HB 32 and HB 33, which I filed prior to the start of session.

Protecting our Democracy includes protecting the Ballot Initiative Process. The use of this measure has allowed Missourians to get the

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legislation they desire when the legislature has not acted. The Ballot Initiative Process helped Missourians expand Medicaid, legalize medical and recreational marijuana and reject Right to Work initiatives. Although my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to reduce the ability for our citizens to pass legislation by ballot initiative, I want to remind them that one day, Republicans will be in the minority and their only avenue to pass conservative policy will be via initiative petition. If they kill the IP, they will regret it when that day comes.. Making it harder to do so is not fair to our citizens.

One of the simplest ways to invest in Missourians aside from raising wages or cutting taxes would be providing assistance for childcare for families. Often times, childcare is a barrier for adults to enter the workforce. By offsetting this issue for many families, we help to build our workforce in the state. I believe there is enough bi-partisan support in the House to get this done.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents of South Kansas City, in particular the Ruskin/Hickman Mills, Linden Hills/Indian Heights and Marlborough neighborhoods for the support they have given me over the years. As a result of redistricting, my district was reconfigured and those residents will now be served by Rep. Ashley Bland Manlove. I will still continue to serve residents in the areas of Candlelight Ridge, Strupwood, Foxtown East/West, Town Fork Creek, Swope Parkway-Elmwood and Sheraton Estates, In addition to those communities, I have gained Eastwood Hills, Blue Hills, Citadel, parts of Brookside, Volker and UMKC.

No matter what the boundaries are, I am here to serve you. You can always reach me by phone or email at my office. Donna, my Legislative Assistant and I are always glad to be of service. Thanks again for your continued support.

***Yours in Service,***

***Rich***

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<b>First Read:</b>	
800	
<b>Third Read:</b>	
0	
<b>Truly Agreed:</b>	
0	
<b>Signed By Governor:</b>	
0	

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## Governor's lawyer sworn-in as Missouri Attorney General

Andrew Bailey was sworn-in on Jan. 3 as Missouri's 44<sup>th</sup> attorney general, replacing fellow Republican Eric Schmitt, who resigned after being elected to the U.S. Senate in November. Bailey will serve out the remainder of Schmitt's term, which ends in January 2025, and plans to seek election to a full term in 2024.

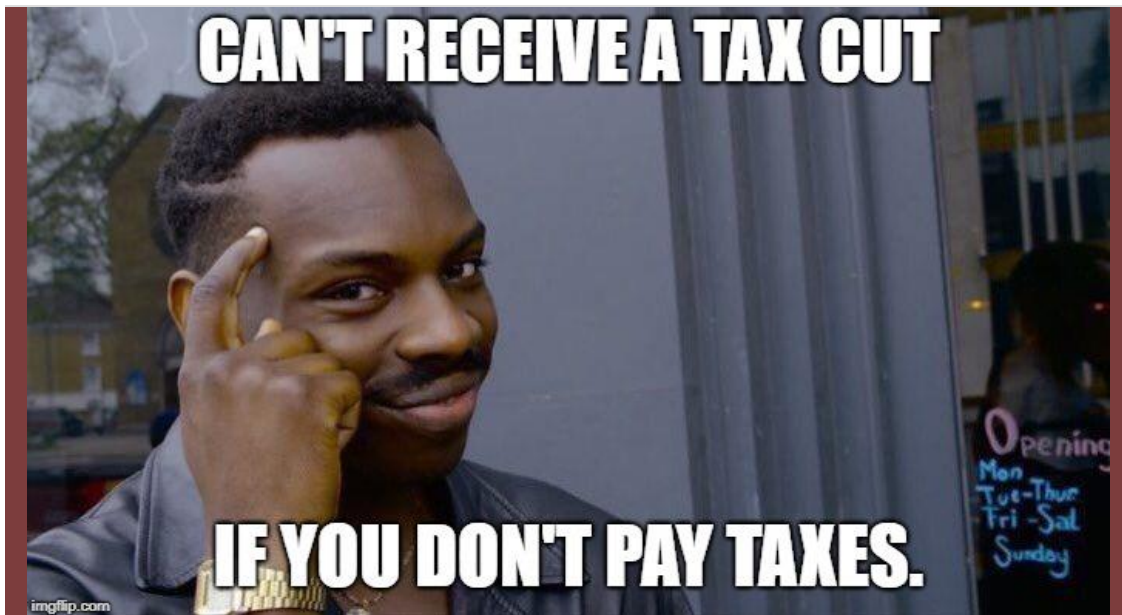
Bailey, 41, has never previously held elected office but has close ties to Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican who picked him to be Schmitt's replacement. Bailey had worked as an attorney in the governor's office since 2019, including serving the past year as Parson's general counsel.

Prior to his appointment as attorney general, Bailey probably was best known for his role in Parson's decision in 2021 to falsely accuse a St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter of criminal hacking after the reporter discovered a flaw in a state website that publicly exposed the Social Security numbers of hundreds of thousands of Missouri teachers. Parson subsequently was widely ridiculed for his lack of understanding of how websites work and prosecutors



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declined the governor's request to criminally charge the reporter, who won multiple national awards for his work in discovering the problem and the retaliation by Parson he suffered as a result.



## On heels of tax cut, House speaker pushes for more tax cuts

Days after a massive tax cut took effect that will cost about \$2 billion a year in lost revenue once fully implemented and threaten the future financial stability of state government, new House Speaker Dean Plocher said the chamber's Republican majority will seek even deeper tax cuts during the 2023 legislative session, which got underway Jan. 5.

Plocher, R-Des Peres, didn't specify what taxes he wants to cut, saying the House would look at all aspects of the state's tax

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structure. One idea floated by Senate Republicans calls for completely eliminating personal property taxes, such as on vehicles. However, doing so also would significantly reduce tax collections for local governments and school districts.

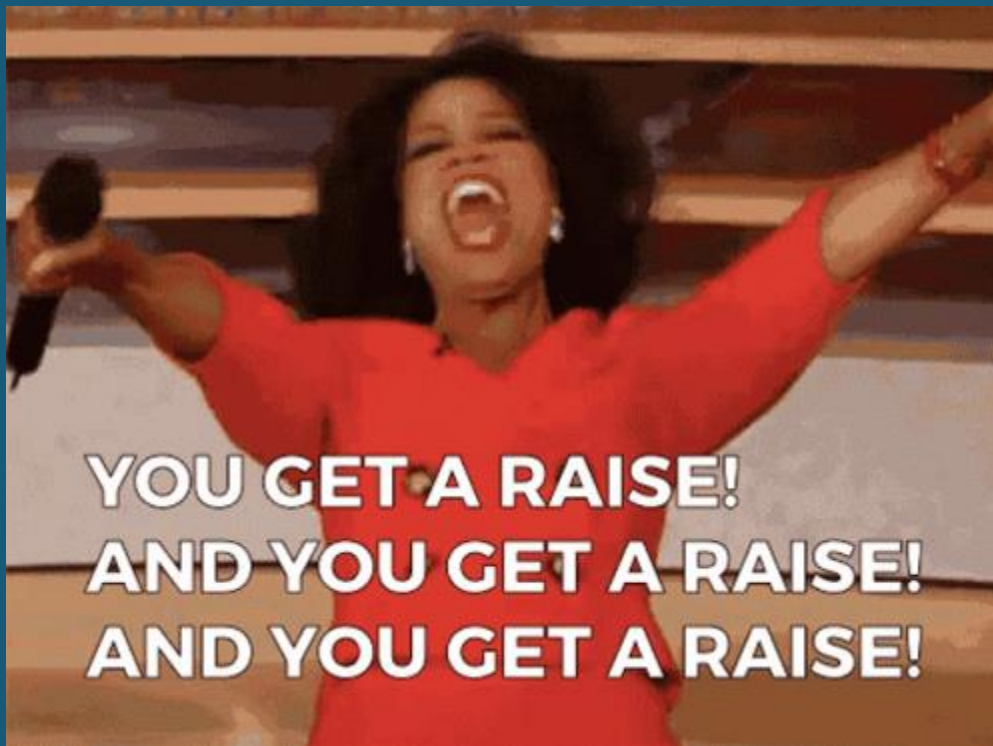
At the start of the New Year, legislation immediately dropping Missouri's main individual income tax rate from 5.3 percent to 4.8 percent kicked in, with additional reductions scheduled that will further reduce the rate to 4.5 percent. The latest tax cut legislation followed recent reductions from the old 6-percent rate that had been unchanged since the early 1970s. Budget officials expect the latest cuts to quickly slow the state's robust revenue collections to a trickle.

Although Missouri temporarily has a \$6 billion revenue surplus, the tax cuts are permanent. While the surplus could mask the pending revenue shortfalls in the short term, it won't last. And lawmakers are expected to use much of the surplus for infrastructure improvements throughout the state, along with addressing other needs.

One such need that has strong bipartisan support is improving minimum public school teacher pay, an area where Missouri ranks among the worst in the nation. However, Republicans also are expected to seek to expand taxpayer support for private education and impose greater censorship over public school curricula, both of which Democrats are expected to fiercely oppose.

Lawmakers in both parties identified reducing violent crime as a top priority, but Republicans summarily dismissed strengthening Missouri's lax gun laws as a solution, while Democrats noted the futility addressing the problem without limiting the ability of dangerous or unstable individuals to access to firearms. The uptick in violent crime closely followed the GOP majority's gutting of state firearms restrictions in recent years, over the objections of law enforcement.

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## **Governor seeks 8.7 percent pay hike for all state workers**

Gov. Mike Parson on Jan. 11 announced he will seek an 8.7 percent pay raise for all state government workers, with an additional \$2-an-hour night shift bonus for staff at residential facilities such as prisons, veteran homes and mental health institutions. 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.

Parson wants the raises to take effect as of March 1. His office estimates his pay plan will cost an additional \$151.2 million, including \$82.4 million in general revenue, over the final four months of the 2023 fiscal year, which ends June 30. Lawmakers must approve the spending in a supplemental appropriations bill for the raises to take effect.

Although Missouri traditionally has had a low-paid state government workforce, attracting and retaining employees

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became a more serious problem when private-sector salaries shot up in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and the state began hemorrhaging workers. For FY 2022, the state initially had budgeted just a 2 percent cost of living adjustment for state workers that even didn't kick in until halfway through the fiscal year. The state ended up providing an additional 5.5 percent boost just three months later in an effort to be competitive. However, even those bumps combined barely kept up with inflation.

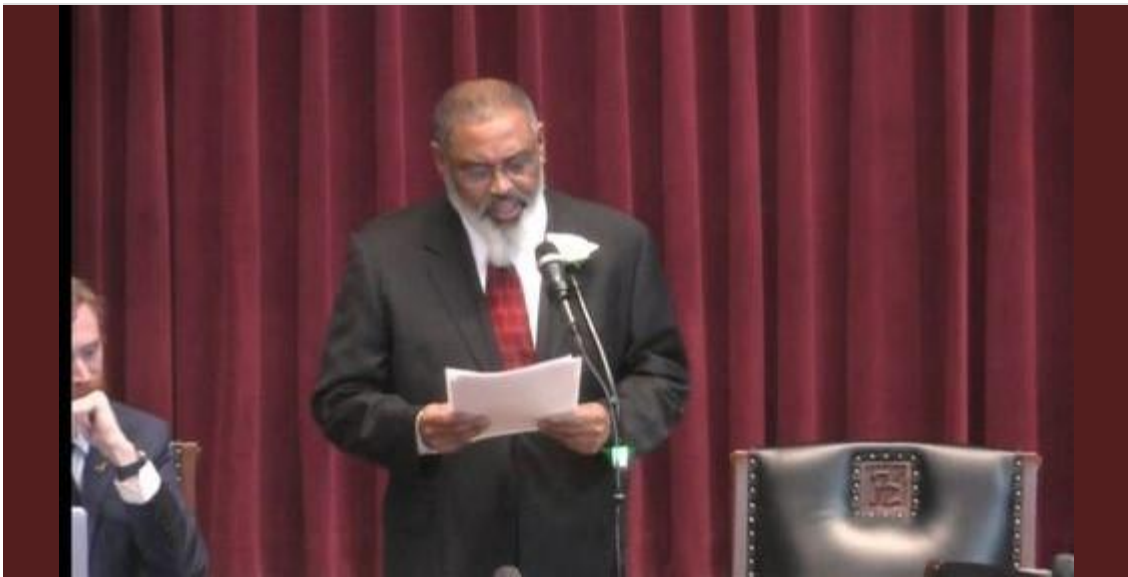
Parson will announce his priorities for the FY 2024 state operating budget during the annual State of the State address, which is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. on Jan. 18 before a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly in the House of Representatives chamber. FY 2024 begins July 1.



The Swearing In Ceremony for the 102nd Missouri General Assembly.

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I was proud to nominate Rep. Crystal Quade for Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives. [You can see the video here.](#)



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# What marijuana users should know about weed and the workplace in Missouri

Author: Brent Solomon

Published: 9:56 PM CST January 3, 2023

Updated: 2:30 PM CST January 4, 2023

ST. LOUIS — Now that [recreational marijuana is legal in Missouri](#), your employer is likely revisiting company policy. Some companies are backtracking rules involving workers, while others are adding new layers to their policies.

With the passage of Amendment 3 comes some new dos and don'ts that your boss has to take notice of. It could mean making changes or reinforcing protocols that may or may not side with those who use marijuana.

Lighting up in Missouri is now legal. But how does that affect you when you go to work?

"The first and most frequent question I'm getting is, 'Can we still prohibit marijuana use in the workplace?'" said Attorney Sarah Mullen of Lewis Rice. "It's a clear yes."

[Read the entire article here](#)

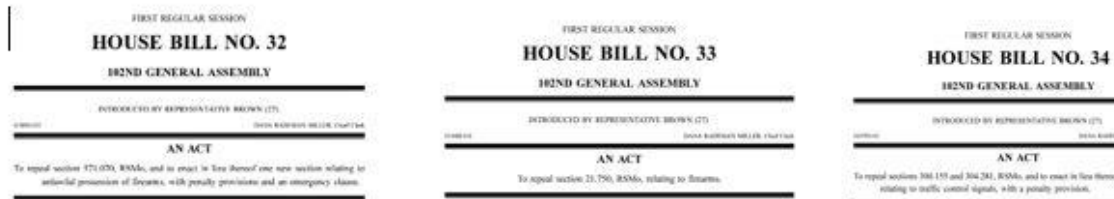
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"Hope is the belief that our future can be better than our past, and that we have a role to play in making that future a reality. This

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positive expectation of the future is grounded in three simple elements: Goals, Pathways, and Willpower."  
~ Richard Brown 2023.~



800 bills have been filed in the House.  
No House bills have been referred to committee yet.

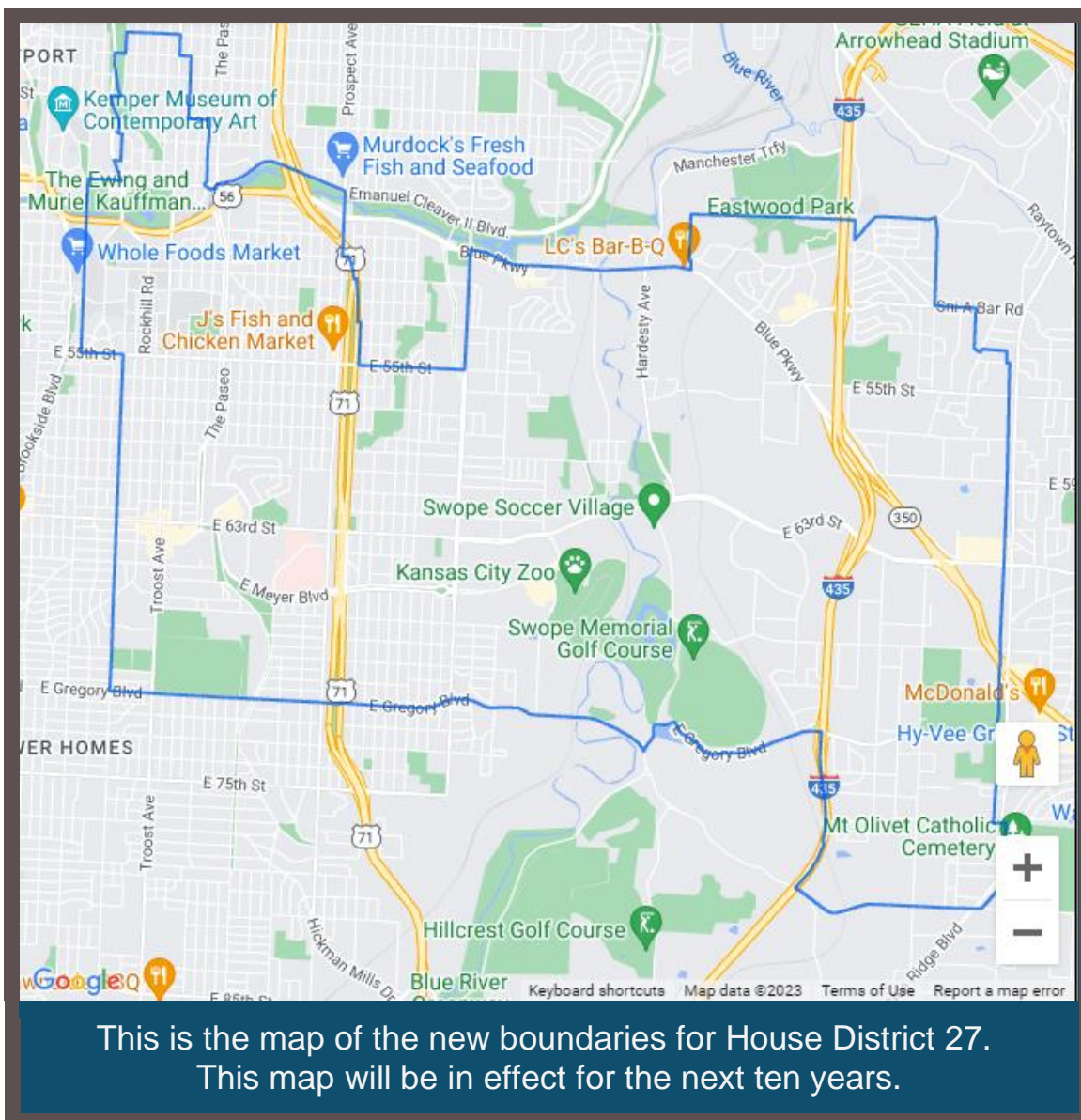
### My Bills

[House Bill 32](#) will prohibit persons convicted of domestic abuse from owning firearms in the state of Missouri. Only wife beaters and child abusers should be fighting me on House Bill 32. In the year where Kansas City continues to record high number of homicides, something responsible needs to be done to help stop the killing.

[House Bill 33](#) repeals current legislation prohibiting local municipalities the authority to enact their own gun legislation. These two pieces of legislation are much needed in Missouri.

[House Bill 34](#) Allows motor vehicles to turn left on a red light when turning from a one-way street onto a one-way street.





## 2023 Legislative Ball







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I was escorted to the Legislative Ball by Terese Chambers.



I met with Roger Best, President of the University of Central Missouri, during his recent visit to the Capitol.

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# What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is illegal exploitation of a person through force, fraud, or coercion. Yes, human trafficking takes place in Missouri. It takes the form of:

**Sex Trafficking      Forced Labor      Domestic Servitude**

Human trafficking is not specific to age, race, or gender. In each instance, victims are forced or coerced to work for little or no pay. Human trafficking is modern day slavery.

**Report Suspected Human Trafficking to**

**1-888-373-7888**

If you believe you have observed or experienced human trafficking, please call.

## How Do I Recognize Human Trafficking?

- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care? Do they have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Is the person often with someone to whom he or she defers or who seems to control the situation?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Can the person come and go from their residence freely?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Look for underage girls who look out of place (possibly wearing revealing clothing).
- Are minors in a public place when they should be in school? How many of them are there?
- Will they make eye contact? Or, do they drop their head? Do they look scared?
- Are they on phones or ask to borrow your phone?

Not all indicators listed above are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

## What Can I Do If I Suspect Human Trafficking?

- Report Suspected Human Trafficking to 1-888-373-7888.
- If you talk to someone you suspect is a victim of human trafficking, kindly ask questions. What are they doing? Do they see their family? Do they keep any of the money they earn?
- If you're at a truck stop or rest area at night, are trucks flashing their headlights? Are girls going up to the trucks? Document a vehicle color, make, model, license plate number, number of people in the vehicle, driver description, take a photo if it is safe to do so.
- Don't rescue them. Call 9-1-1 or \*55.

## Are You A Victim Of Human Trafficking?

If you are a victim of human trafficking, please call 9-1-1 or \*55. Let us help.

You can also contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFREE (233722).



Sources: Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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**PEACE FOR 🇺🇦 UKRAINE**

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## **COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS**

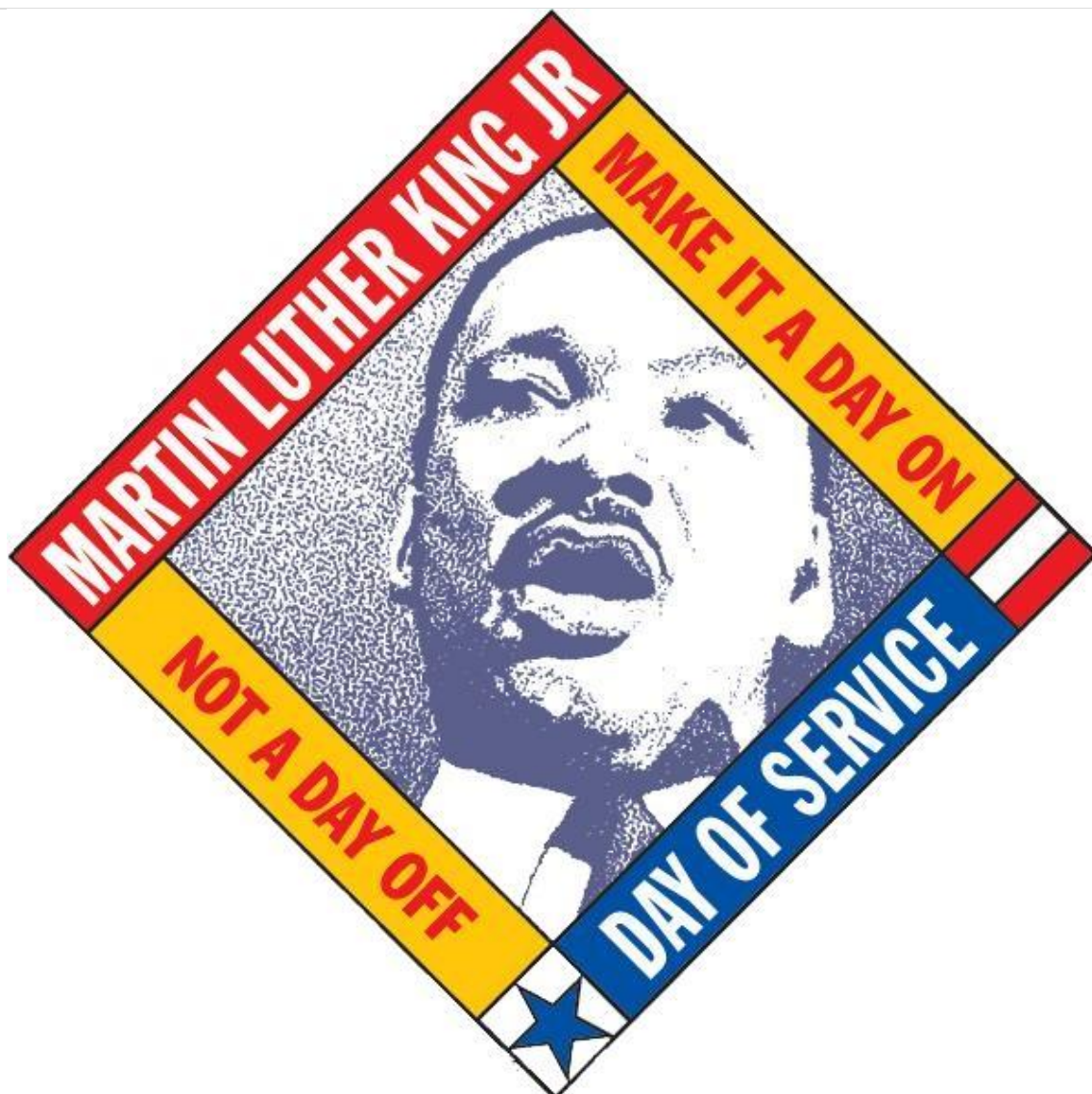
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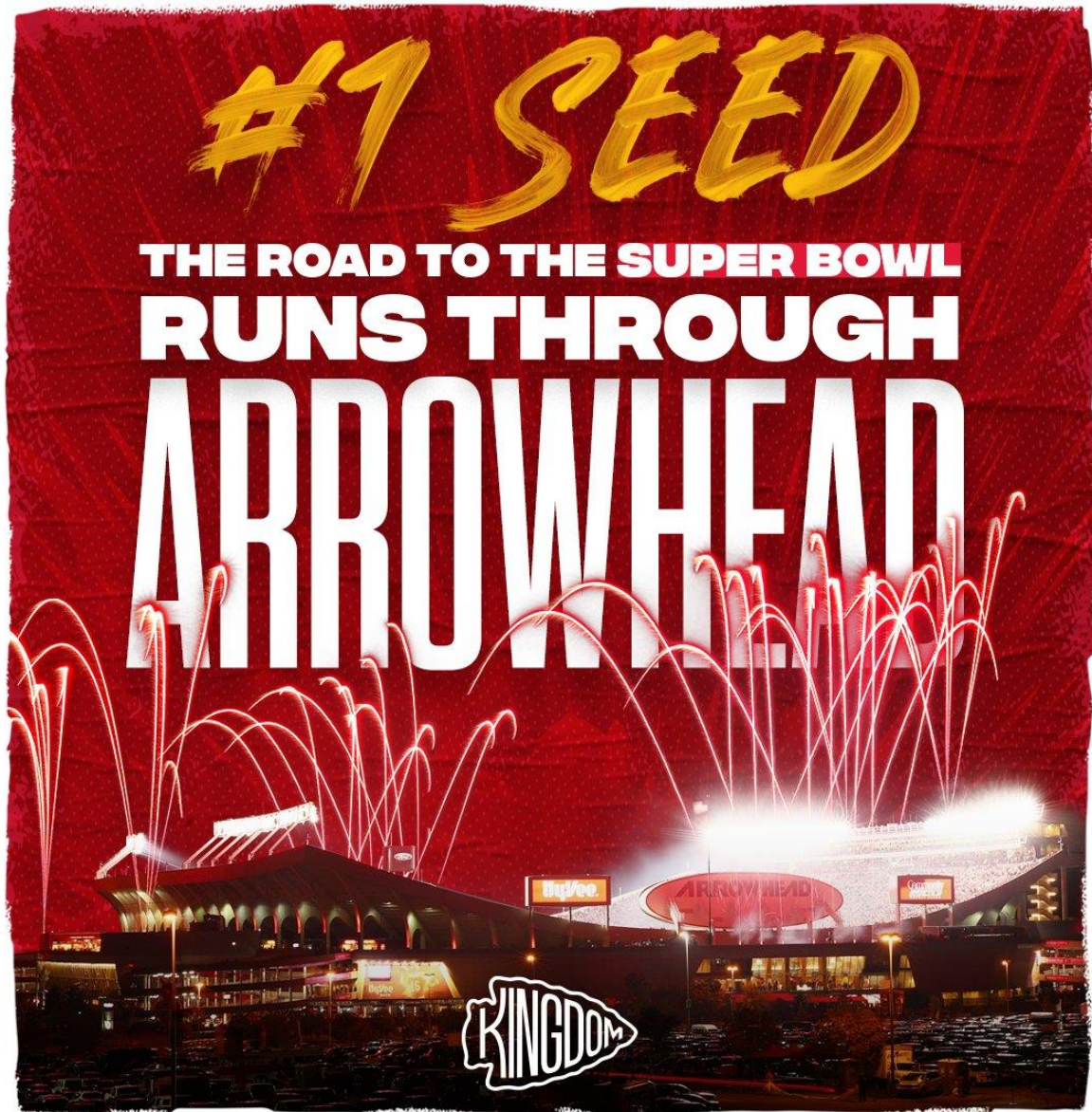
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[Click here for a list of MLK Service Events in Kansas City](#)

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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 driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother**

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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

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Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

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

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