



Mark A. Sharp Weekly Capitol Report

Saturday, March.7th, 2020

PARSON PUSHES PRISON GUARDS UNION TO FINANCIAL BRINK

Months after Republican Gov. Mike Parson's administration began blocking the automatic collection of dues, the union that represents Missouri prison workers could go broke later this month, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported on Feb. 28. An official with the Missouri Correctional Officers Association told the paper the administration's action "is just another attempt by the GOP to shut down unions."

The contract between the union and the state Department of Corrections expired in September, but the parties continued to operate under the terms of the old contract while negotiations continued on a new one, as is common practice. Part of that contract required the department to withhold dues from the paychecks of the roughly 5,500 employees represented by the union.

However, Parson's Office of Administration, which oversees the state payroll, informed the union on Dec. 9 that it unilaterally would cease withholding dues since it is no longer bound by the previous contract. A union official told the paper only 209 members were currently paying dues since automatic paycheck withholdings stopped. Negotiations over a new contract with prison workers has stalled, the official also said.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ROLLOUT ALREADY YIELDS 800 APPEALS

More than 800 appeals have been already been filed with the state Administrative Hearing Commission by applicants to whom the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services denied state licenses to grow, manufacture or distribute medical marijuana in Missouri.

The health department has faced criticism for its implementation of legalized medical marijuana, prompting the House Special Committee on Government Oversight to hold a series of investigative hearings to question department officials.

During the latest hearing, on March 4, lawmakers asked department officials about numerous possible conflicts of interest, including that the company the department hired to conduct supposedly blind scoring of applications has business ties to some applicants. Lawmakers also

noted that some high-ranking department employees have strong personal or political connections to players in the medical marijuana business.

Lawmakers also asked about the department's decision to limit the number of licenses it awarded, even though the voter-approved constitutional amendment that legalized medical marijuana imposes no cap. The department maintains it did so to prevent market saturation and minimize the diversion of legally grown marijuana to the illegal market.

However, skeptics note that since the limited number of licenses were awarded to a small number of businesses, it could empower the license holders to operate as a cartel and stifle competition. The department said it can always issue more licenses later if it deems it necessary.

In addition, lawmakers questioned the wisdom of appointing former state Rep. Lyndall Fraker, R-Marshfield, as director of Missouri's medical marijuana program instead of someone with relevant experience. Fraker, a former Wal-Mart manager who served eight years in the legislature, had no prior background in medical marijuana.

The House hearings into the matter are expected to continue throughout the legislative session, which ends in May. The department still plans for medical marijuana sales to begin later this year.

HOUSE ADVANCES PHOTO VOTER ID BILL TO SENATE

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted 109-45 on March 2 in favor of legislation to require government-issued photo identification for voting. Critics say the bill's sole purpose is to make voting harder for groups that are most likely to lack the necessary ID and tend to support Democrats.

House Bill 1600 now advances to the Senate, which is also under Republican control. Republican lawmakers have been trying to enact a photo voter ID requirement in Missouri since 2006 and twice succeeded, only to have the state Supreme Court struck down both as an unconstitutional infringement on the fundamental right to vote. If HB 1600 is also enacted, it likewise is expected to face a legal challenge.

As the Supreme Court has noted, voter impersonation is the only type of election fraud a photo voter ID requirement can prevent. Even though there has never been a reported case of voter impersonation fraud in Missouri, Republican lawmakers have always insisted a photo voter ID requirement is vital to combatting election fraud.

KC LAWMAKER TAKES OVER AS SENATE MINORITY LEADER

State Sen. John Rizzo of Independence took over as the top Democrat in the Senate on March 3 after state Sen. Gina Walsh of Bellefontaine Neighbors stepped down from the post. Walsh, who had served as Senate minority leader since June 2016, will serve out the remainder of her Senate term, which runs through the end of the year.

Rizzo served four years in the House of Representatives before winning election to the Senate

in 2016. He is up for re-election this year. His district covers much of northern Jackson County. Walsh, who can't run again for her north St. Louis County seat due to term limits, will leave the legislature after 16 years equally split between the House of Representatives and Senate.



Legislative Update

This week, [Blair's Law](#) was heard in the General Laws Committee. I presented my bill alongside fellow Representatives, Nick Schroer and Rory Rowland who had similar legislation. Blair's Law is a bipartisan bill that aims to deter people from wanting to celebrate in Missouri by shooting their gun into the air. Fellow members of the legislative body realized the sense of urgency when it comes to celebratory gunfire. My bill will essentially create a much stiffer penalty than current city ordinances have across the state. Ideally, once this bill is signed by Gov. Parson, there will need to be a strong public education campaign to inform people that law has changed. This will involve community leaders, the faith community, the school system and everyone in neighborhoods speaking out against celebratory gunfire. We heard from members of

law enforcement who spoke in favor of my bill. There were also several community leaders there who also came out in support of my bill. Thank you, Rep. Plocher and your committee for hearing my bill. I'm happy to work alongside my colleagues to push for something that will actually save lives in our communities. It was truly a team effort.

I know firing a weapon into the air seems harmless, I know it is a tradition in Kansas City especially. However, the truth is that this has gone on long enough. The culture needs to shift on how we celebrate in our city and our state as a whole. Please support this bill.



Contact Information

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Dear Neighbor,

My name is Mark A. Sharp and I am the newly elected State Representative for District 36th. I wanted to present to you my new weekly "Capitol Report" which will include the latest news and legislative updates about major developments here at the state capitol. As a new member of The 100th General Assembly, 2nd Session, I am proud to serve the people of South Kansas City.

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 [Brian Farmer](#) is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 109-G, 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.

Yours in Service,
Mark A. Sharp





Had a great conversation with officers from
KCPD about Blair's Law

My Legislation

[HB2107](#)- Modifies residency requirements for the A+ Schools Program

[HB2169](#)- Establishes Blair's Law, which creates the offense of unlawful discharge of a firearm for discharging a firearm within or into the limits of a municipality with criminal negligence

[HB 2635](#) - Provides that the period of detention on arrest without a warrant is 48 hours for criminal offenses involving a dangerous felony or deadly weapon

[HB 2636](#) - Modifies provisions regarding the expungement of records

[HB 2690](#) - Establishes a Negro Leagues Baseball Museum special license plate

Update: [HB2169](#) was heard the General Laws Committee. The plan is for this bill to be voted out of the committee next week.



Had a chance to talk about the legislative process with some Lincoln Prep students who visited the capital

**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



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