

Dear Neighbor,

I wanted to be sure you saw the great news that House Bill 66 that I co-sponsored to create a long overdue pretrial witness protection program in Missouri passed the Missouri Senate 29-0 on September 2 and now awaits the governor's signature to become law.

An emergency clause to make it effective as soon as it is signed by the governor passed by the same vote.

The House had already passed the bill on August 25 by a vote of 147-3.

HB 66 will establish a pretrial witness protection fund administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety to provide funding to law enforcement agencies to protect witnesses, victims and their immediate families whenever their testimony in criminal trials would jeopardize their lives.

Agencies will need to apply for funding for specific criminal cases and outline projected costs and how they intend to protect the witnesses or victims.

This long needed program will increase the number of witnesses and victims who are willing to testify so the small number of persistent violent offenders who commit a high percentage of our city's violent crimes can be successfully prosecuted and incarcerated before they can hurt more victims.

This will help reduce our skyrocketing number of homicides in KCMO which totaled 136 for this year on September 3, a 44% increase from the average number of homicides (94.25) by that date for the last four years. That number exceeded the number of homicides in the city (131) for all of 2016. There were 17 homicides within the South Patrol boundaries.

Please scroll down for information on other legislation recently passed by the House and Senate and on important upcoming local events.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my assistant <u>Brian Farmer</u> is ready to help you.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and family who might want to know the latest news about what is happening in state government and about important local events. Be safe and God bless!

Yours in Service, Mark A.Sharp

Mark A. Sharp Weekly Capitol Report Friday, September 4th, 2020

SENATE PASSES FOUR OTHER HOUSE BILLS

Besides the witness protection bill, this week the Missouri Senate passed four other bills passed last week by the Missouri House, but because it changed the language in three of them, only one of these bills was sent to the governor for his signature. The other three will be returned to the House for further consideration.

The bill sent to the governor will modify the provision in present state law that allows St. Louis City to require that current officers and civilian employees of its Police Department live in the city for at least seven years and to require them to live within an hour's drive from the city after seven years of service by eliminating the seven-year residency requirement.

House Committee Substitute for House Bill 46 imposes the same

restrictions on city residency requirements for public safety employees of the City Fire Department and Sheriff's Office.

The bill allows the city to re-impose the seven-year residency requirement for police and these other public safety employees hired after August 31, 2023.

I voted against this measure primarily since the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen had already put an amendment to the city charter on the November ballot to eliminate the residency requirement for all city employees, and I thought this decision should be left to local voters.

The following bills will be returned to the House.

House Committee Substitute for House Bill 2 which I co-sponsored will allow a judge to admit statements by witnesses into evidence if the judge finds (in a hearing outside the presence of the jury in a jury trial) that a defendant engaged in or consented to wrongdoing that caused the unavailability of a witness despite due diligence by the prosecution or the witness is unavailable "because the defendant caused the death of the witness".

This bill is intended to reduce the incentive for guilty defendants in murder cases or in cases involving other serious felonies from trying to have witnesses killed before they can testify or to intimidate them into not testifying. It passed the House 133-11 with bipartisan support and little opposition.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, the Senate adopted a very controversial Senate Substitute for this bill in the wee hours of the morning on September 3 to allow the Missouri Attorney General to take over prosecution of first and second degree murder cases in St. Louis City upon the written request of the chief law enforcement officer of the investigative agency if 90 days or more have passed since the murder and no charges have been filed. (These provisions would expire on August 31, 2023.)

After Senate Republican leaders shut off further debate, the bill passed 22-8.

Earlier in this special session, House Republican leaders refused to consider legislation to allow the Attorney General to take over prosecution of murder cases in St. Louis City, and I hope this language can be removed by a House-Senate conference committee.

If this bill does pass with the St. Louis City prosecutor language intact, it likely will be challenged in court for violating at least two provisions of the state constitution – one prohibiting lawmakers from amending provisions of bills onto unrelated legislation and the other banning "special laws" that apply to one jurisdiction but not to others without valid cause.

House Bill 11 will make it a Class D felony to aid or encourage a child under 17 to commit a state weapons offense. It will need to be returned to the House due to a minor corrective amendment by the Senate which should be noncontroversial.

House Committee Substitute for House Bill 16 had gutted the original version of this bill that I co-sponsored to make it a Class E felony to knowingly deliver, give, lend or sell a firearm to someone under 18 without the consent of the recipient's custodial parent or legal guardian. And it actually removed the provision in current law making it a Class A misdemeanor to recklessly deliver, give, lend or sell a firearm to persons under 18 without parental or guardian consent, making such acts legal under Missouri law.

The Senate Committee Substitute for this bill restores the removed language, but clarifies that it will not apply to relatives who reasonably believe they have the consent of the child's custodial parent or guardian.

SECOND COURT DECLARES AMENDMENT 3 LANGUAGE UNFAIR

For the second time in two weeks, a Missouri court has declared ballot language crafted by Republican lawmakers for a measure seeking to repeal the Clean Missouri redistricting reforms voters overwhelmingly approved in 2018 to be "insufficient and unfair" by ignoring any mention of the proposal's main purpose.

The latest decision concerning the Amendment 3 ballot language, which will go before voters Nov. 3, came on Aug. 31 from a three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District. The appellate court agreed with Cole County Circuit Judge Patricia Joyce that the original ballot language needed to be rewritten but differed as to how it should be reworded. Joyce struck down the original language on Aug. 17.

The Republican-controlled legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution 38 in May to place Amendment 3 on the ballot. I voted against it.

Although the measure's primary purpose is to repeal the new redistricting procedures, the ballot language Republican lawmakers included in SJR 38 makes no mention of that. Both the Western District and Joyce said that omission would mislead voters regarding Amendment 3's impact.

The new ballot language ordered by the Western District provides greater detail than Joyce's version on the proposed redistricting changes, as well as making different wording choices regarding other provisions. As of Sep. 3, Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Republican, had not appealed the decision to the Missouri Supreme Court.

The new redistricting system is slated to be used for the first time during next year's redistricting cycle.

CONSERVATION CHALLENGES BUDGET RESTRICTIONS

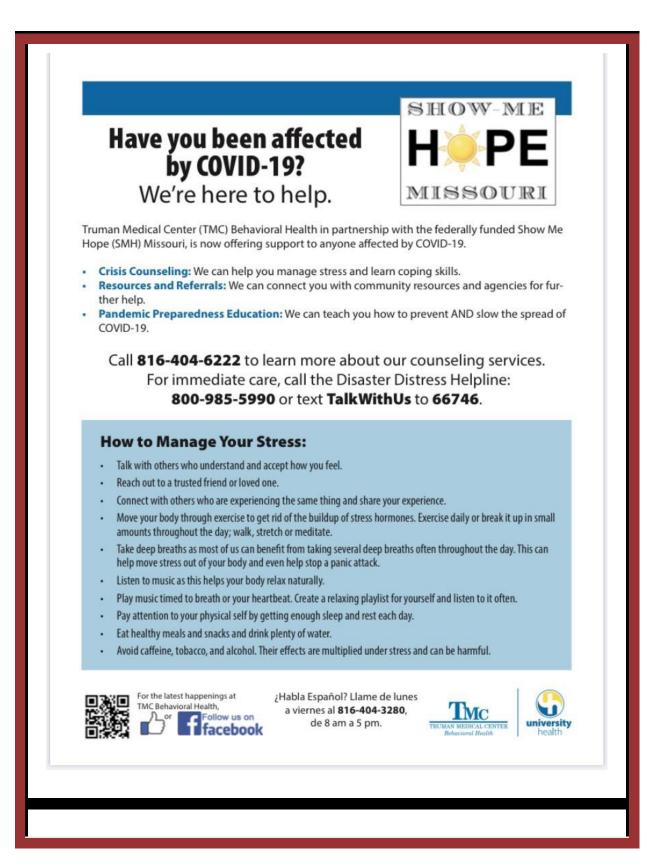
The Missouri Conservation Commission sued the state on Aug. 27 asking a Cole County Circuit Judge to declare that the Commission can expend taxpayer money without a budget appropriation approved by the General Assembly authorizing such an expenditure.

The four-member Commission oversees the Department of Conservation, which is funded by a dedicated one-eighth-cent statewide sales tax. Under the Missouri Constitution, only the Commission can expend conservation sales tax revenue. However, other constitutional provisions prohibit expenditures without an appropriation by the legislature that "distinctly specifies the amount and purpose" of the authorized spending.

In its lawsuit, the Conservation Commission alleges the legislature's omission of appropriations language in the FY 2020 budget authorizing the Commission to expend funds for land acquisition is blocking the Commission's attempt to purchase 510 acres of land in St. Clair County to expand an existing wildlife area. The lawsuit also claims a lack of appropriations authority is preventing the Commission from making nearly \$743,000 in payments in lieu of property taxes to Missouri counties for past land acquisitions.

The Commission argues its constitutional power to expend revenue from the conservation sales tax should be treated as the power to appropriate funds independently of the legislature.

The Commission had requested that the case be expedited since the closing date on the St. Clair County property is scheduled for Sep. 10. As of Sep. 3, however, Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green had taken no action on it.





Gardens at Sunset Livestream Date Changed to September 9th

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 9th @7:30pm-8:00pm** for a virtual livestream from the Beanstalk Children's Garden featuring highlights of the garden and stories of the impact of community gardening through the challenges of 2020.

PLEASE NOTE that the date for the livestream has been changed from the original date of September 10th due to a scheduling conflict with the Kansas City Chiefs home opener. We'd hate to steal any thunder from the

Super Bowl Champions' first game as World Champs!

How to watch:

You can view the livestream on KCCG's facebook page, the Facebook Event page, or KCCG's Youtube channel. Click on the links below at 7:30pm on September 9th and look for the post regarding the livestream and follow instructions on how to view the broadcast.

> KCCG's Facebook Page Gardens at Sunset Event Page KCCG's Youtube Channel



News from the City Communications Office

City of Kansas City, Missouri kcmo.gov

Application deadline for City's Home Repair, Paint Programs is Sept. 18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 27, 2020

The last day the city's Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department is accepting applications for the City Home Repair, Targeted Home Repair and the Paint Program is Friday, Sept.18. These programs are offered at no cost to low and moderate income households within the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

Applicants must be single-family KCMO homeowners who have not received city home repair services in the last five years (no rental properties, mobile homes, duplexes, etc.) and must meet <u>2020 Income Guidelines</u> established by the United Stated Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). More information and application forms can be found on the city's website: <u>kcmo.gov.</u>

Nearly 450 residents have already applied for assistance and more than 200 applicants have been approved. Once approved, it takes approximately four months for work to begin. These programs will again be offered in 2021.

For more information about the programs, call the NHSD (816) 513-3200. Media can contact Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department Communications/Community Liaison John Baccala at (816) 513-3202 or John.Baccala@kcmo.org.

September 3, 2020

Community, School, Neighborhood, Faith and Business Leaders: Please consider forwarding or sharing this information with your families, friends, neighbors, parishioners, members, etc.

Free Virtual Classes in September

Community Assistance Council is offering classes (virtual for now) to help support individual, family and community wellness and stability. These online classes are open to all (unless noted otherwise). CAC clients are especially encouraged to sign up. Visit our website with all of the class info and registration links at <u>www.cackc.org</u>.

CAC Cooks! Sept. 10, 1 - 1:40 pm

- For anyone looking for healthier meal options.
- Presented by David Zack, Café Gratitude line cook and CAC garden volunteer.
- Register <u>HERE</u> and you will receive a ZOOM for video or phone call link for the session.

We will be cooking and discussing veggie burgers, crispy baked French fries and a simple summer salad. We will also discuss meal prep, quick meals and other exciting food-related topics.

Tenant Rights & Responsibilities:

Sept. 18, 1 – 1:30 pm

- For anyone interested in learning more about tenant rights and responsibilities.
- Presented by Garrett Christensen, Legal Aid of Western Missouri.
- Register <u>HERE</u> and you will receive a ZOOM for video or phone call link for the session.

This session will provide an understanding of:

- Basic tenant rights and responsibilities.
- Information and tips on how to protect yourself in disputes between landlords and tenants.
- A Question & Answer session will wrap up the presentation.

How to Understand and Improve Your Credit: Sept. 23 - 1 - 2 pm

- For anyone interested in learning more about personal credit issues.
- Presented by Amanda Myers, Community Outreach & Director of Legal Services, Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom
- Register <u>HERE</u> and you will receive a video or phone call link for the session.

This workshop gives you the tools to learn about credit and correct errors on a credit report. We start with the basics, discussing what a credit report is, who can access it, how do you get a copy and what is a credit score? Then, we will dig further, covering when does a negative item fall off, what if the information is inaccurate, and what if you're a victim of identity theft?

Chair Yoga: Sept. 29 – 1 – 1:30 pm

- For anyone interested in trying yoga for mental and physical health.
- Presented by Megan Feighny, Megan Feighny Yoga + Pilates.

• Register <u>HERE</u> and you will receive a video or phone call link for the session.

• Ongoing sessions will be available.

Chair yoga is practiced either sitting or using chairs for support in various postures and is designed to mindfully increase range of motion while meeting students where they are. This class is ideal for people who have limited mobility or healing from injury and people of all levels.

Virtual Wellness by Phone at Home

The First Hand Foundation and CAC are partnering to offer the Foundation's free, at home, by phone virtual wellness classes to CAC friends. Participants do not have to meet income or geographic guidelines. Follow these steps to get connected to Fitness Instructors.

- Dial 816 384-1534
- Enter Conference ID: 822 269 208 or 520 472 345 (evening Yoga)
- Enter the # (sign) after the Conference ID
- Download the flyer PDF <u>HERE</u>.

Yoga: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays - 1 pm

Start a Yoga practice at home! All ages are welcome, come as you are and work at your own pace and level. That could be in a chair or on the floor. Our Instructors will guide you through the 50-minute practice.

Nutrition Hacks and Stretch & Strength:

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 1 pm

Deepen your knowledge of all things nutrition with 5 minutes of Nutrition Hacks. These tips and tricks will help you live a more nutritionist life! Stretch & Strength class follows at 1:05 pm. This class combines the best of both worlds.

Evening Yoga: Mondays and Thursdays - 6 pm

End your day centered and relaxed with an evening Yoga class. Note this class has a different Conference ID (520 472 345).

On-demand sessions to watch at your convenience

Mindfulness: presented by CAC Volunteer Jim McGraw

While the negative impact of stress on health is well known, daily relaxation practices can decrease muscle tension, high blood pressure, anxiety, etc. In this video, participants will learn and practice a simple technique to help activate your parasympathetic nervous system, called the "relaxation response" by Harvard physician Dr. Herbert Benson. The video also includes practical tips to take calming diaphragmatic breaths throughout the day for a more relaxed mind/body. Link to video HERE.

Autogenic Muscle Relaxation: presented by CAC Volunteer Jim McGraw

Autogenic Muscle Relaxation (AMR) is a self-relaxation method used since the 1930's, sometimes with biofeedback. This short video session provides an overview of AMR, and a guided narrative where listeners intentionally relax by repeating phrases such as "my hands are heavy and warm". The regular practice of this simple technique can lead to muscle relaxation, dilation of blood vessels in the extremities, and an overall sense of calm. Link HERE.

Trauma Informed Care: Video produced by Truman Medical Center's Center for Trauma Informed Innovation.

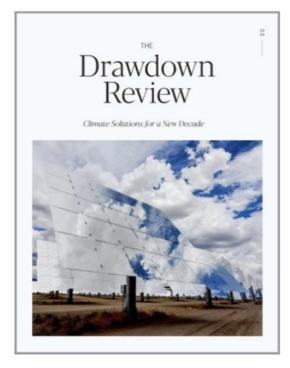
Trauma-informed care includes practices that promote safety, empowerment, and healing for children and adults. This video helps participants understand the connection between symptoms and behaviors and an individual's trauma history. Link <u>HERE</u>.

For more classes information contact: Community Assistance Council at 816-763-3277 x 110, or email julie.reid@cackc.org with questions. CAC, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd, KCMO 64134 (on Ruskin HS grounds)

Click **<u>HERE</u>** to visit CAC's website for more information







Introduction to Drawdown: Reversing Global Warming Monday, Sept. 8 from 7:00-8:00 PM Central Time on Zoom

This short Introduction will feature the new data in the Project **Drawdown 2020 Review** which revised the top solutions to reversing global warming. You must register for this free online introduction at this link: **Register Here for the Zoom Introduction to Drawdown Sept. 8**

If you miss this date, you are welcome to watch the recording of the livestream on YouTube at this link: <u>View the Live-Stream of the Introduction to Drawdown Sept. 8</u> Presenter: David Hakan

"Getting Into Action"

5-Session Course Starting in September

PREREQUISITE: attend an Introduction to Drawdown, live or online

Now that you know that it's *possible* to reverse global warming, what will it take to get YOU to your the next steps? This course will get you into gear!

You will move from just knowing to taking effective action; learn more about Drawdown actions; learn how to talk to others about global warming and Drawdown; find your personal Drawdown solutions; and develop your capacity to achieve what you choose to do.

Click here to Register for this free 5-session course on Zoom.

• Sunday @ 2:00 - 5:00 PM - beginning Sept. 27, 2020 on Zoom. (The next 4 sessions will be spread out over the next 8 weeks.)



Avila Information Sessions

If you're looking to pivot professionally or you're looking to increase your earning potential, an Avila graduate degree might be for you. With advanced study available in Education, Business, Psychology, Organizational Development and Management, graduate programs at Avila are targeted toward prepping you to become a leader in the workforce.

If you're interested in changing your trajectory, attend one of our many upcoming information sessions. Visit <u>www.avila.edu/adultgradevents</u> to sign up for an information session via zoom.

All alumni will receive a 10% discount on tuition.

The Princess and the Frog at Starlight



Seating is Limited Due to COVID-19

REGISTER TODAY!

https://cbkcmovienight.eventbrite.com



LEAKSTOPPERS PROGRAM

Bridging the Gap is offering a FREE program called Leakstoppers. In partnership with KC Water, Bridging The Gap is helping income-eligible KCMO households reduce their water consumption and water bills by finding and fixing toilet leaks and installing toilet tank banks, fill cycle diverters, high-efficiency showerheads, and faucet ae



HARVESTERS

TMC

Public Health



Who:

The KCMO Health Department has partnered with the Harvesters Community Food Network to help individuals and families in need of food assistance.

What: Variety fruits and vegetables available at no cost to you

When:

2nd Tuesday of every month, starting at 1:30pm until supplies run out

KCMO Health Department in the UMKC Health Sciences District 2400 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108

South KC Mobile Food Pantries

With so many people out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic, a growing number of families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to four sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

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.

Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St., from 4 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 food will be loaded in the vehicles when they reach the school by staff and student volunteers. This event is sponsored by the school and Community Assistance Council.

Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginningat 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the thirdSaturday of the month.Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes forvolunteerstoputthefoodin.

Martin City K-8 School, 201 E. 133rd St., from 11 a.m. until food runs out on the

third Saturday of the month. This event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church.

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.



Coronavirus Facts and Resources

Kansas City

If you would like to receive updates about what the City is doing in response to the coronavirus, **text COVIDKC to 888777** or go online to <u>kcmo.gov/coronavirus</u>

Missouri

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operatinga hotline for residents and health care providers to call for informationandguidanceaboutCOVID-19.

The statewide hotline number is <u>877-435-8411</u>. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Website for Essential Companies Hiring NOW!!

Missouri faces unprecedented times due to the impacts of COVID-19. Here at the Department of Economic Development, we recognize that many of the low-income, at-risk citizens your organizations work with will be hit the hardest and be the first to lose employment. With that in mind, we wanted to direct attention to the Missouri Now Hiring website your https://missourionestart.com/now-hiring. Missouri One Start is connecting unemployed workers to essential companies who are staffing up to meet the increased demand for their products and services. There you will find a list of companies that are hiring right now. This site takes workers directly to the hiring/application pages of the respective companies. The list is updated on an ongoing basis, so checking back daily is advised. Please link your clients in-need to this website so our workers can make it past this situation as painlessly as possible.

UNEMPLOYMENT

How to File?

If you're eligible, you'll <u>need</u> the following:

- Your Social Security number;
- Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions;
- The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
- The dates you started and ended work at each of those jobs.

If this is your first time filing for unemployment please watch <u>this video</u> on unemployment basics. Visit <u>uinteract.labor.mo.gov</u>, create an account and file your claim. If your job loss is related to coronavirus issues, make sure to check a box that says "COVID-19" in your application to waive a requirement to search for a new job amid the crisis.

Missouri provides benefits for up to 20 weeks, which can be extended to 33 weeks under the federal provisions.

The state will pay you up to \$320 per week, and the federal government will provide \$600 on top of whatever you get from the state for each week you're on umployment prior to July 31.

Benefits can be paid within 22 days unless there is an issue with your eligibility, which on average can take 4-6 weeks to resolve.

You should continue filing weekly requests for payment even if you have not yet received benefits.

Regional Claims Center representatives are available by phone Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM by calling:

Kansas City Claims Center: 816-889-3101 or visit

Missouri Unemployment Website

Please visit the Missouri Department of Labor's website for more information about COVID-19 FAQ's for Businesses and

Workers: https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus

US Department of Labor has a few sites dedicated to Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions



The September 2020 issue of Kansas City's Most Wanted is now available.

Your monthly delivery of Kansas City's Most Wanted is here! Take a look at this month's local fugitives and see if you recognize anyone. If so, submit an anonymous TIP and you could receive a cash reward! No one will ever know except you.

TIPS can be anonymously submitted via the following methods:

- The TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477)
- Online at <u>www.kccrimestoppers.com</u>
- The P3 Mobile App

Thank you for your continued support of the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers program.

*Note: If your browser is still displaying last month's issue, please try opening the page in an incognito window.

GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS 816-474-TIPS HOTLINE

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 <u>www.KCcrimestoppers.com</u>, 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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Email

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