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Forward

Dear Neighbor,

I was extremely pleased that \$2 million to implement the long overdue pretrial witness protection program in Missouri is included in the supplemental spending bill scheduled to be debated next week during this year's second special session of the Missouri General Assembly.

I had formally asked the governor to include witness protection funding on the agenda for the special session so this urgently needed program created by legislation I co-sponsored can be implemented as soon as possible.

**Kansas City already has set a new record for annual homicides this year (158 as of November 5) and there are almost two months still to go. This is heart-breaking!**

Without the testimony of witnesses, there often is not enough evidence to make an arrest or obtain a conviction, and witnesses frequently are reluctant to come forward due to fear that guilty defendants will try to have them killed to prevent them from testifying at their trials.

Successfully prosecuting and incarcerating more of the repeat violent offenders who commit so many of our city's most violent crimes before

they can harm more victims undoubtedly will save lives.

**Turning to other matters that will have a great positive impact on south Kansas City, I was pleased to attend today's formal groundbreaking ceremony for the first large industrial building being constructed at the site of the now demolished former Bannister Federal Complex on the north side of Bannister Rd. just east of Troost.**

This 241,000 square foot industrial building on the west end of the site is the first of seven large industrial buildings planned for the new industrial park being developed on the site by NorthPoint Development.

The industrial park named the Blue River Commerce Center is projected to generate a minimum of 1,500 new jobs in south Kansas City, primarily involving warehousing and light manufacturing, although company officials say they expect the total number of new jobs to actually be significantly higher.

NorthPoint officials said the first building is expected to be complete by spring, and construction of an even larger 438,000 square foot building just to the east of the first building should start in about three weeks and be completed this summer.

The park also will include an on-site training center to help prepare area residents for the jobs that will be created there.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my assistant [Brian Farmer](#) 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, November 6th, 2020**

### **SPECIAL SESSION FOR ADDITIONAL SPENDING GETTING UNDERWAY**

The Missouri House of Representatives is scheduled to convene Tuesday, November 10 for this year's second special session which was called by the governor to consider a \$1.28 billion supplemental budget bill, including \$2 million to implement a long overdue pretrial witness protection program in Missouri that was created by legislation I co-sponsored this year.

Funding for the witness protection program will come equally from the Victims of Crime Act Federal Fund and from Missouri general revenue.

The great bulk of the funding included in the bill is to allocate federal coronavirus relief funds.

The governor's plan includes a provision allowing the state to recoup unspent federal coronavirus funds already allocated to Missouri counties.

The House Budget Committee is scheduled to hear the supplemental spending bill on Monday, Nov. 9, with the full House expected to debate and pass the bill the next day. The Senate is currently scheduled to convene its portion of the special session on Nov. 13.

House Majority Leader Rob Vescovo recently asked the governor to expand the special session's scope to include legislation to provide businesses with legal immunity from lawsuits relating to COVID-19. At a news conference a short time later, Parson said he would be open to doing so if lawmakers can quickly reach a consensus on the issue. The state constitution prohibits lawmakers from considering legislation in a special session that hasn't been requested by the governor.

### **VOTERS REPEAL CLEAN MISSOURI REDISTRICTING REFORMS**

Two years after ratifying by a wide margin a new method of redistricting state

legislative seats designed to end political gerrymandering, Missouri voters on Nov. 3 narrowly approved a constitutional amendment promoted by Republican legislative leaders to repeal that system before it had a chance to be implemented.

I voted against this measure when it came up for a vote this year in the Missouri House along with 55 of my House colleagues, including some Republicans.

Amendment 3, which narrowly passed with 51 percent voter support according to unofficial returns, undoes the redistricting reforms established by the Clean Missouri amendment that won 62 percent approval from voters in 2018.

I believe its passage was aided by ballot language that while technically correct, over-emphasized two minor reforms included in Amendment 3.

The ballot language said it will ban gifts from paid lobbyists to legislators and their employees, but failed to mention Clean Missouri had already placed a \$5 cap on such gifts. It also said Amendment 3 would reduce legislative campaign contribution limits, but failed to mention the only small change was to lower the existing limit on individual campaign contributions to state senate candidates from \$2,500 per election to \$2,400. I viewed both of these as insignificant.

Two courts had ruled the original ballot language for Amendment 3 crafted by the Republican lawmakers supporting the proposal was intentionally misleading for completely failing to mention the measure would repeal the 2018 Clean Missouri redistricting reforms. Judges rewrote the ballot language to include that change, but unfortunately placed it at the end of the ballot language after the language about these minor changes.

Clean Missouri's redistricting system was to be used for the first time in 2021, when new districts for the state Senate and House of Representatives will be redrawn to account for population shifts documented by the 2020 Census.

Under Clean Missouri, a non-partisan state demographer would have been charged with drafting initial legislative redistricting plans that would go into effect unless they were disapproved by bipartisan redistricting commissions for House and Senate districts consisting of members nominated by the Republican and Democratic parties and appointed by the governor.

With passage of Amendment 3, the entire redistricting process will be returned to these commissions that tend to consist of political insiders, some of whom who have had close ties with sitting legislators they likely wished to protect. In the past, these commissions often have approved very oddly shaped legislative districts gerrymandered to help one political party or the other.

Even more troubling, Amendment 3 may be interpreted to exclude large numbers of residents from being counted for redistricting purposes since it eliminates provisions in the state constitution requiring districts to have populations as equal as practical based on U.S. census figures which count all residents.

It says districts shall have populations as equal as practical based on one person, one vote measured by the “statewide population data being used”, leaving out any reference to the census.

Concerns have been raised about whether this ambiguous language will be used to exclude non-citizens, citizens who have lost their voting rights and children from being counted.

If this is done, it would have a negative impact on metropolitan areas such as Kansas City that have larger percentages of immigrants than most rural areas, causing them to lose some of their political representation. It also would result in districts that vary widely in their actual population. This would almost certainly face legal challenges since all states have traditionally used census figures that count everybody for redistricting.

Amendment 3 also enacts new legal hurdles that make effectively challenging an unconstitutional redistricting plan extremely difficult. Instead of just showing that a plan fails to follow constitutional requirements, a plaintiff would have to prove that he or she would suffer individual harm. And if that can be proven, a court could only alter a redistricting plan to the extent necessary to remedy the harm to that individual plaintiff.

So if a plan generally favors one political party over the other or is generally unfair to ethnic minorities, it would take dozens of individual lawsuits to try to get fair district boundaries which doesn't appear realistic.

## **PARSON LEADS REPUBLICAN SWEEP OF STATEWIDE OFFICES**

Missouri voters granted Governor Mike Parson a full term in the office he inherited more than two years ago as he led a Republican sweep of all five statewide executive branch offices on the ballot this year. Parson won 57.2 percent of the vote to beat State Auditor Nicole Galloway, a Democrat who received 40.6 percent support according to unofficial returns. Minor party and write-in candidates accounted for the other 2.2 percent of the total vote.

While all five winning Republicans are incumbents, only Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft was previously elected to his post. Parson was lieutenant governor when he ascended to the top job in June 2018 following the resignation of his predecessor. He subsequently appointed the other three – Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe, Attorney General Eric Schmitt and State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick – to fill vacancies.

Because Galloway's term as state auditor doesn't expire until January 2023, she will remain as the only Democrat currently holding statewide office. She is eligible to seek another term in 2022.

Republicans maintained their supermajorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives, but failed to pick up seats in either. Democrats flipped one Republican-held House district in Springfield by 34 votes. If that Democratic gain holds following an expected recount, Republicans will have a 114-49 advantage in the House when the 2021 legislative session begins in January. The breakdown in the Senate remains unchanged with Republicans outnumbering Democrats 24-10.

## **VOTERS REJECT EXECUTIVE TERM LIMITS AMENDMENT**

Missouri voters on Nov. 3 rejected extending term limits to all statewide executive branch elected officials, with the proposal receiving just 48 percent support according to unofficial returns. As a result, the governor and state treasurer will remain the only two statewide officials whose tenure is constitutionally restricted to eight years.

Amendment 1 would have prohibited the lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general and state auditor from being elected to more than two four-year terms, with partial terms of less than two years exempted. The Republican-controlled General Assembly voted during the 2019 legislative session before I

took office to place Amendment 1 on the statewide ballot.

Supporters said Amendment 1 would create uniformity by subjecting all six statewide elected offices to term limits instead of just the governor and state treasurer. Opponents said there was no compelling reasons to change a system that allows voters to decide how long a person stays in office. They also pointed out that only 13 people in state history have served more than eight years in any of those offices.



A few days ago I was elected by my colleagues to be the next Treasurer of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus and I am extremely appreciative of their support and the faith they have placed in me. Thank you MLBC!



*You're Invited!*

Hickman Mills Educational Foundation

*Virtua*

*18th Annual*

*Silent Auction and Gala*



Visit [www.32auctions.com/HMEF20](http://www.32auctions.com/HMEF20)

*Auction begins: November 2, 2020 at 8 a.m. CST*

*Auction ends: November 6, 2020 at Midnight CST*





COMMUNITY BUILDERS OF KANSAS CITY  
HOSTS DRIVE-THRU EVENT:

**FREE TURKEY GIVEAWAY**  
**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
**FREE DIAPER GIVEAWAY**  
**FREE COVID TESTING**  
**FREE FLU SHOTS**

**Location:**

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center  
3700 Blue Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64130

**Date:**

Saturday, November 14th

**Time:**

10:00am - 2:00pm

**For Information:**

DaRon McGee 816-627-2154  
dmcgee@cb-kc.org



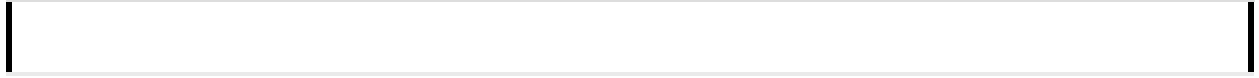
**Special Guests:**



**Frank White**  
Jackson County Executive  
& **Teresa White**

**A Special Thanks to  
Our Community Partners:**







## **Holiday Toy Drive**

Get your picture with Blue Santa, Local Officers and SuperHeroes (TBD)

Free Mini Candy Canes

Bring New, Unwrapped toy to donate

Enjoy a "Free" small Coffee or Hot Chocolate with new toy donation

Come Support your local law enforcement and give to your neighborhood families

**7-Eleven—6506 Main Street,**

**Grandview, MO 64030**



**R** | **RYANA PARKS-SHAW**  
**K** | COUNCILWOMAN - 5TH DISTRICT

# 5TH DISTRICT SMALL BUSINESS TOUR

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SIGN UP YOUR SMALL BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE !



myDSS.mo.gov

## Child Care Subsidy

If you have an eligible school-aged student who is not attending school in person, the Department of Social Services is extending fulltime child care subsidy benefits through December 31, 2020. The extension of this benefit, effective beginning September 1, ensures children remain safe and supervised during the school day and supports working parents to meet the demands of their jobs and stay employed

To increase your benefit:

Contact the Family Support Division by calling **855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636)**.

If you are not receiving benefits and have a school-aged student not attending school in person, you can apply by:

1. Going [online](#)
2. Completing the [Child Care Application](#) and mailing it to your [local Family Support Division office](#) .
3. Contacting the Family Support Division at **855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636)**.

# Harvest Report



Select  
Saturdays  
9:00 AM - Noon

**NOVEMBER**  
7th, 14th, 21st

**DECEMBER**  
5th, 12th, 19th

**JANUARY**  
2nd, 16th

**FEBRUARY**  
6th, 20th

**MARCH**  
6th, 20th

## Winter Market

HJ's Community Center  
6425 Wornall Road

SUSTAINABLE FARMS  
ARTISAN FOOD  
LOCAL PRODUCE  
HOLIDAY GIFTS

sponsored by



[www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com](http://www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com)

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*Check it out!*

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*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, start at 1:30pm until supplies run out

*Where:*  
KCMO Health Department in the UMKC Health Sciences District  
2400 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64111

## 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 five sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

**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 Three Trails Community church.

**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.

**Ruskin High School**, 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

**Center High School**, 8715 Holmes Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as long as food is left on the third Saturday of the month. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.



1 of 1



# COVID-19

## FREE TESTING CLINIC

*Testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals*

*Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred*



**Monday - Friday**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

*Lunch will be held from 11:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.,  
and there will not be testing during this time.*

Visit [jaco hd.org/events](https://jaco hd.org/events) to see  
dates + locations and to register.

*Testing provided by the Jackson County Health Department*

## 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 [kcmo.gov/coronavirus](https://kcmo.gov/coronavirus)

### Missouri

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a [hotline](#) for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19.

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

# UNEMPLOYMENT

## How to File?

If you're eligible, you'll need the following:

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

If this is your first time filing for unemployment please watch [this video](#) on unemployment basics. Visit [uinteract.labor.mo.gov](http://uinteract.labor.mo.gov), 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 unemployment 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>

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**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 Clever 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](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)**



***State Representative Mark A. Sharp***

**Missouri House of Representatives**

**Room 109G**

**201 W Capitol Ave**

**Jefferson City, Mo 65101**

**Phone**

**573-751-9469**

**Email**

**[mark.sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:mark.sharp@house.mo.gov)**

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