



Dear Neighbor,

I was very grateful for the powerful and heartfelt testimony March 1 by supporters of my bill (House Bill 99) and two very similar bills intended to reduce the growing problem of potentially deadly celebratory gunfire in our community by making discharging a firearm with criminal negligence within or into city limits a state offense.

I was especially grateful for what must have been the extremely painful testimony before the House General Laws Committee of Michele Shanahan-DeMoss, the mother of 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane, her only daughter who died here after being hit by celebratory gunfire on July 4, 2011.

She has devoted much of her time since then to educating people about the dangers of celebratory gunfire, and she pleaded with legislators on the committee to help deter such irresponsible behavior by finally making it a state offense with stronger penalties than the current penalties provided by city ordinances, some of which she said were more suitable for parking violations.

Kansas City Police Captain Kari Thompson testifying on behalf of the police department said if action isn't taken to deter such dangerous behavior, that the question isn't if another person will be killed by it but when.

The department announced earlier this year that residents of 12

homes in KCMO reported that their homes were hit by celebratory gunfire just during the recent New Year's Eve.

Damon Daniel, president of the AdHoc Group Against Crime, submitted written supportive testimony to the committee that made it clear that celebratory and other indiscriminate gunfire is a danger to both life and property, pointing out that his organization provided repairs to over 200 homes in Kansas City that were struck by bullets during the last three years.

A south Kansas City resident who provided written testimony in support of the legislation said celebratory gunfire in her neighborhood during certain holidays made it sound like a war zone. She echoed Captain Thompson's remark that it is only a matter of time before the result is not just property damage but more loss of life.

Other groups that provided in-person or written testimony in support of the legislation included the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the city of Kansas City and both the Greater Kansas City and South Kansas City Chambers of Commerce.

The General Laws Committee is scheduled to vote Monday, March 8, on whether to recommend this legislation for passage by the full House. The three bills, all named Blair's Law in honor of Blair Shanahan Lane, are House Bill 99 I introduced, House bill 722 introduced by Rep. Rory Rowland of Independence and House Bill 795 introduced by Rep. Nick Schroer of O'Fallon.

Last year the committee heard our three slightly different versions of this legislation and combined them as a committee substitute which it recommended for passage by a 12 to 1 vote, but time ran out before the legislation could be voted on by the full House.

I am happy to report that the House Consent & House Procedure Committee on March 2 voted 9-0 to recommend passage as a consent bill of House Bill 100 that I introduced with seven co-sponsors from both political parties to establish a special Negro

Leagues Baseball Museum license plate to raise awareness of the Museum and funds for its operations.

The bill had earlier been recommended for passage as a consent bill by a 13-0 vote of the House Transportation Committee. I am hopeful it will be considered for passage by the full House very soon.

The bill will allow persons who make a \$10 contribution to the Museum to purchase a set of the special plates for a \$15 fee that will be added to their regular license fees. The plates will include the name of the Museum in capital letters and its logo.

Senator Barbara Anne Washington has introduced identical legislation which has passed the Senate as a consent bill and is awaiting a hearing in a House committee, so the chances of one of our bills passing both branches of the General Assembly this session appear very good.

In other good news, I was recently elected without opposition by my area Democratic House colleagues as the Democratic co-chair of the bipartisan Kansas City Caucus that gives members of both parties from our greater Kansas City metropolitan area a forum to share information and work together as much as possible to benefit our entire area. The Republican co-chair is Representative Mike Haffner of Pleasant Hill.

In this position, I will do everything in my power to build bipartisan support for the needs of our area which I think sometimes do not get the attention they deserve from our state government.

I also was recently appointed to the Joint Committee on Legislative Research made up of members of both the House and Senate, and a few weeks before then was appointed to the House Special Committee on Urban Issues. These are in addition to the three House committees I was appointed to originally for this legislative session – Crime Prevention, Elementary & Secondary Education and General Laws.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide, [Kaylee Bauer](#) is ready to help you.

Please scroll down to read about other state government matters and important upcoming local events.

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



Representative Sharp shows members of the House General Laws Committee a picture in a local newspaper of a Grandview police officer exhibiting a bullet from indiscriminate gunfire found at an apartment complex to show how widespread this problem is becoming in the metropolitan area when presenting his bill to make discharging a firearm with criminal negligence within or into city limits a state offense.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, March 5, 2021

HOUSE VOTES TO WAIVE REPAYMENTS

The House of Representatives voted 157-3 on March 4 to send bipartisan legislation to the Senate that would block the Missouri Department of Labor & Industrial Relations from forcing tens of thousands of Missourians to collectively repay most of the \$150 million in excess unemployment benefits it mistakenly paid out last year when the jobless rate spiked due to the pandemic.

House Committee Substitute for House Bills 1083, 1085, 1050, 1035, 1036, 873 & 1097 would require the Department to forgo the recovery of non-fraudulent overpayments of federal unemployment funds. Excess benefits involving state funds – a relatively small portion of the total – would still have to be repaid.

According to the Department, only 2.3 percent of the overpayments involved fraud, with the remainder going to recipients who acted in good faith, but through no fault of their own were given more unemployment benefits than they should have received. The federal Department of Labor has authorized states to waive repayment in non-fraud situations.

For weeks, Governor Mike Parson had insisted that the money be repaid, even though it would impose a severe financial hardship on unemployed recipients. However, Parson has softened his position in recent days and has indicated he would go along if lawmakers send him legislation authorizing the Department to waive overpayment.

Because of the urgent need for a resolution of this issue, the bill originally contained an emergency clause allowing it to take effect immediately upon being signed by the governor. But in an unexpected move, the emergency clause was defeated after the bill's sponsor said the Missouri Department of Revenue had given assurances it is backing off collection efforts. Without an emergency clause, which the Senate could restore, the bill won't take effect until Aug. 28.

I voted for both the bill and the emergency clause.

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS' POWER TARGETED

The House of Representatives on March 3 granted preliminary approval on a voice vote to legislation that would drastically limit the authority of local city and county health officials to impose restrictions in response to a pandemic or other public health crisis.

A second, recorded vote is required to advance this legislation which I strongly oppose to the Senate.

Because of Gov. Mike Parson's reluctance to impose uniform statewide restrictions designed to limit the spread of COVID-19, local public health officials have borne the primary responsibility for taking actions aimed at limiting its spread, such as mask mandates, restrictions on business operations and limits on a variety of public gatherings that can be tailored to meet the individual needs of their communities.

Under House Committee Substitute 2 for House Bill 75, a local health department could only limit or prohibit attendance at any public or private gathering or order the closure or partial closure or place restrictions on access to businesses, churches, schools or other places of public or private gathering for a maximum a 15 days, after first getting approval by a two-thirds vote of the local governing body.

One maximum 15-day extension could be imposed by majority vote of the local city or county governing body. Up to three extensions for a maximum of 10 days each could then be authorized by a two-thirds vote of that body. Any subsequent extensions for a maximum of 10 days each would require unanimous approval.

Supporters say decisions by local health officials should be subject to oversight by local elected officials. Opponents say the extremely short time limits on any restrictions and supermajority or unanimous approval requirements in the bill would make it nearly impossible for

local health officials to keep restrictions in place long enough to curtail serious public health emergencies such as the current pandemic.

This legislation is one of several bills that have been introduced to hamstring the power of local health departments.

PARSON RESTORES SPENDING AUTHORITY

Gov. Mike Parson on March 1 restored the remaining \$281.67 million in spending authority for the current state fiscal year that he had withheld earlier, including \$123.36 million in direct state funding for local public school districts. The action will allow that funding to be disbursed during the final four months of fiscal year 2021 which runs through June 30.

Due to the fiscal uncertainty caused by the pandemic, Parson exercised his constitutional power to unilaterally withhold nearly \$449 million in spending authority approved by the General Assembly when fiscal year 2021 began last July 1. Parson restored some of that spending authority in early January.

In a news release, Parson said revenue collections had improved sufficiently to allow the remaining withheld spending authority to be restored.

MAYOR

Quinton Lucas

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



While we fight this pandemic, I remain committed to helping every Kansas City family and every Kansas City child remain in their homes.

Today, I am proud to announce **\$4.5 million is immediately available for Kansas Citizens needing rental or utility relief.** This Emergency Rental Assistance Program will help residents get caught up on past due rent and utility bills, and is a part a \$14.8 million funding package that has been approved by the City Council and made possible with federal funding from

the stimulus package passed by Congress in December.

Here's how you can apply:

To apply for rental or utility assistance, contact one of these five local agencies contacted with the City to provide immediate financial relief to residents struggling to meet their day-to-day housing needs.

-
- Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry has been granted \$2.5 million to distribute. You can call 816-514-2683 or fill out a paper application, available at 3031 Holmes Road, KCMO 64109 & 1100 NE Vivion Road, KCMO 64118. They also have an online application:

Online Application

-
- Journey to New Life has been granted \$500,000. Call 816-960-4808 or email agrove@jtnl.org for assistance.
 - reStart has been granted \$500,000. Call 816-886-9153 or email rentalassistance@restartinc.org for assistance.
 - Community Assistance Council has been granted \$500,000. Call (816) 763-3277 for assistance.
 - Synergy Services will distribute \$450,000 through existing referrals.

Full list of rental assistance agencies and eligibility can be found [here](#).

Still, there is much more to be done. We will continue our work to help keep people in their homes, connect those who need it with long-term housing, job training services, and more, to help keep Kansas Citians warm, healthy, and safe.

Sincerely,
Mayor Q

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

March 4, 2021

Governor Parson Announces Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Channel in Missouri

State Partners with Missouri Pharmacy Association to Distribute Vaccines to Local Pharmacies

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – During today’s briefing at the State Capitol, Governor Mike Parson announced that pharmacies across Missouri will begin receiving prioritized shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine through a new State Pharmacy Program.

“With vaccine supply continuing to increase and more Missourians becoming eligible, we will now begin shipping vaccines to pharmacies in all regions and communities throughout the state,” said **Governor Parson**. “Local pharmacies are a trusted health care resource for many Missourians, so distributing vaccines to as many pharmacies as we can will help expand accessibility by providing a vast network of capable providers in every community.”

Starting next week, 15 percent of Missouri's weekly vaccine allotment from the federal government will be allocated to the state's pharmacy program.

The state has identified 161 pharmacies in 84 counties based on ability, location, and population. These pharmacies have the ability to administer 200 initial doses of COVID-19 vaccines per week and will consistently receive this number of doses in addition to booster doses

for the next three to four weeks. To view the list of participating pharmacies, please see attachment.

The Missouri Pharmacy Association will submit orders to the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) on behalf of partnering pharmacies. Missourians are encouraged to use the state's [vaccinator map](#) at [MOStopsCOVID.com](https://www.mostopsCOVID.com) to find participating pharmacies in their area or reach out to local pharmacies directly. Allocations for each of Missouri's vaccine delivery channels will be adjusted accordingly to accommodate pharmacies. Delivery channels and corresponding allocations through the week of March 22 are as follows:

- High Throughput Health Centers: 35 percent
- Mass Vaccination Events: 15 percent
- Local Public Health Agencies: 15 percent
- Federally Qualified Health Centers: 15 percent
- Other Community/Enrolled Providers: 5 percent
- Pharmacies: 15 percent

Starting the week of March 29, the state will shift vaccine allocations to reflect unvaccinated eligible populations in each of Missouri's nine regions. Current delivery channels will be modified to incorporate those changes.

Also during today's briefing, Governor Parson outlined modifications to state sponsored mass vaccination clinics.

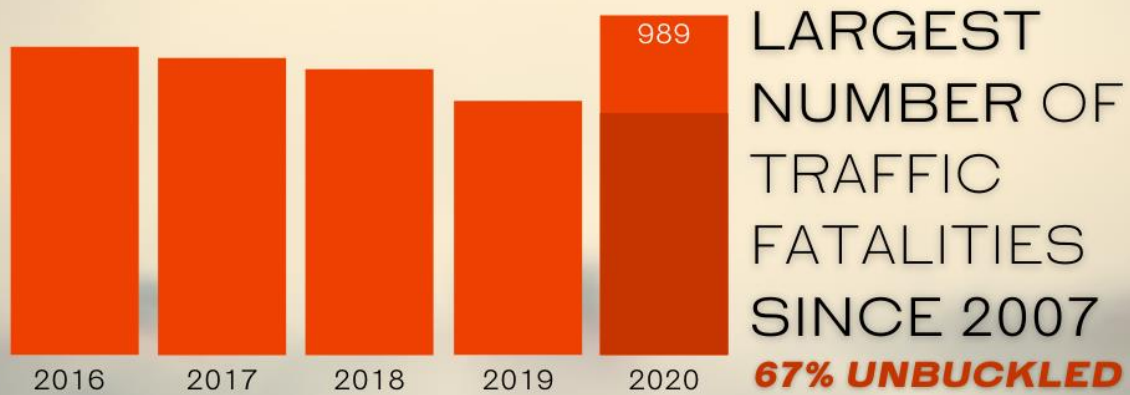
"While distribution is equitable based on population throughout each region, we do recognize that some Missourians are less interested in receiving a vaccine than others," said **Governor Parson**. "Vaccine interest is often highest in urban populations, so starting next week, we will begin transitioning mass vaccination teams to accommodate more events in the Kansas City and St. Louis regions."

Starting the week of March 8, mass vaccination teams will begin transitioning operations to include a larger presence in Region A (Kansas City) and Region C (St. Louis). Eventually, two teams will be operational in Region A and three teams will be operational in Region C. The state expects a full transition by April 1. This timeline will allow vaccination teams to complete booster clinics for previous Moderna and Pfizer events and transition to the single dose Janssen vaccine.

Both mass and targeted vaccination events hosted by the state will begin utilizing the Janssen vaccine as supply allows. This will help increase the scale and efficiency of state sponsored clinics as vaccination teams will not need to return to locations for booster (second) dose vaccinations.

Missourians are encouraged to visit [MOStopsCOVID.com](https://moplastopsCOVID.com) to view the latest vaccine updates, find out when they are eligible for the vaccine, and locate available vaccinators in their area.

THE STATE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY



—SHOW-ME—
ZERO
Driving Missouri Toward Safer Roads

Preliminary reporting for 2020 indicates Missouri traffic fatalities increased by 12% compared to the previous year. According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, 989 lives were lost in Missouri traffic crashes in 2020 - up from 881 in 2019.

Despite traffic volumes in the state being significantly down for much of the year, Missouri experienced its largest number of traffic fatalities since 2007. In particular, there were notable increases in unbuckled and speed related fatalities, with both experiencing approximately a 25% increase from the previous year.

In 2020, nearly 67% of drivers and passengers killed in car crashes were unbuckled, and preliminary numbers indicate 389 people were killed in crashes involving excessive speed or speeds too fast for conditions. In addition, there were 126 pedestrians killed in 2020 - the largest number of pedestrian fatalities in Missouri ever recorded.

Missouri's new strategic highway safety plan, *Show-Me Zero, Driving Missouri Toward Safer Roads*, identifies four key focus areas to help turn the tide: occupant protection (seat belts, car seats and helmets), distracted driving, speed and aggressive driving, and impaired driving. More than that, the plan identifies ways all Missourians can help reduce the number of fatalities on Missouri roadways.

Take a look at the new plan, and do your part to create a safer Missouri. The plan can be viewed in its entirety at [SaveMOLives.com](https://www.savemolives.com).

**THIS COMMUNICATION IS SENT ON
BEHALF OF T'RISA MCCORD, INTERIM
PRESIDENT & CEO, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORP OF KANSAS CITY,
MO:**

Dear Community & Neighborhood Association Leaders,

The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) would like to invite you to attend a Zoom training session exclusively for you and your organization on economic development incentive tools. With so much discussion currently surrounding the use of incentive tools, we thought it would be helpful to offer this training session so that we could provide you with information and resources to help you better understand what these incentive tools are and how they work, as well as provide you an opportunity to ask questions of our staff and provide input on policy issues.

Please let me know if you are interested in setting up an information and training session, and possible dates/times that would be good for your group in the coming few months. An agenda and related materials, as well as a Zoom meeting invitation will be sent to you prior to the session once a date/time is confirmed. We anticipate the session to take about one hour.

Thank you,

JILL QUINN

Corporate Secretary | Executive Assistant to President & CEO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF KANSAS CITY

300 Wyandotte Street | Suite 400 | Kansas City, MO | 64105

d: 816.691.2120 | www.edckc.com



MISSOURI EMERGENCY RENTAL ARREARS PROGRAM

The state of Missouri's new rental assistance program using funding through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) was passed by Congress in December 2020. On February 11, 2021 Governor Parson signed HB 16 into law, which provides more than \$324 million in funding for rental and utility assistance for Missourians.

Missouri Housing Development Commission will administer this funding under the State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) program. Please click below for more information.

[Please Click Here For Program Information](#)

Please note that the Missouri Emergency Rental Arrears Program (ERAP) is a separate program from above, and is utilizing ESG-CV funding authorized through the CARES Act. This program is open to landlords seeking rental arrears for qualified tenants.

[Please Click Here For Program Information](#)

Bridging The Gap Tool Lending Shed provides the Greater Kansas City community access to tools, empowering our neighbors to build and maintain a sustainable, thriving community.



Groups can save expenses while completing many types of community-coordinated projects, such as garden installation, neighborhood improvement, maintenance, and beautification. We lend out free of charge an ever-growing inventory of tools. View our full inventory to decide what you need for your next project. **Tools are limited and available on a first come, first served basis.**

Once you are ready to checkout tools, follow these simple steps:

- Complete the Tool Lending Shed request form <https://www.tfaforms.com/4608222>
- Once we receive your request, you can expect to hear from us within 2-3 business days to confirm that the tools are available on the date requested. Please note: the completion of this form does not guarantee that the tools are available.
- **Tools can be picked up and dropped off Wednesday - Saturday between 10:00 am - 4:00 pm** at the Deramus Recycling

Center at 4707 Deramus Avenue, KCMO 64120.

- You must bring a copy of the confirmation receipt in order to check-out tools. Tools will NOT be released without a copy of the confirmation email.
- Borrower will be responsible for any missing or damaged tools (other than normal wear and tear)

After your project, please clean all tools, return them at the prearranged time. Once you have returned the tools, we will contact you for information regarding your clean-up event. We need this information in order to continue to receive funding for this program.

For additional information please go to <https://bridgingthegap.org/litter/>

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC



(877) 435 - 8411

<https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator/>

**VACCINATIONS FOR THOSE 65 AND OLDER
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**
4401 E. BLUE PARKWAY, KANSAS CITY, MO 64130



To Register for Vaccination
Use your smartphone
camera on this code.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE





GREEN GUARD

STEWARDSHIP TRAINING

LEARN ABOUT NATURE AND STEWARDSHIP THROUGH A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS.

A stipend is paid upon completion of all workshops!

MARCH 13 1 TO 3PM
MARCH 27 1 TO 3PM
APRIL 10 1 TO 3PM
APRIL 24 1 TO 3PM



APPLY TODAY!

**CONTACT SARAH AT HCA: 816-349-9201 OR
 SARAH@HEARTLANDCONSERVATIONALLIANCE.ORG**



Expanded, After-Hours Food Appointments Available

Beginning in March, CAC has food appointments available 9 to 2:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This month after-hours are 4 - 6 pm, Wednesday, March 24 and 9 am to noon, Saturday, March 27. Call 816-763-3277 x 100 for a food appointment. Hygiene items are distributed with food and diapers are available the same hours during the week. Call the same number to register for diapers.

Child Protection Project Class:

March 23, 1 – 2 pm

Class is free and open to anyone. This presentation is for parents and caregivers on child sexual abuse awareness in our community, safety tips and effective methods to talk with children about personal safety. Register for class [HERE](#) for ZOOM for phone link.

- Presented by Christina Sell, Bilingual Child Abuse Prevention Educator,,Sunflower House, Shawnee, KS
- How can we be proactive in protecting children?

-
- At what age should parents start talking to their child about personal safety?
 - If a child discloses abuse, what should I say?

Contact Julie Reid, julie.reid@cackc.org, 816-763-3277 x 110 with questions.

Save the Date - Community Cleanup June 12

Sixth District Community Cleanup Day will be 8 am to noon, June 12. Locations and more details to come.

Thank you to The Telegraph newspaper and all its wonderful readers! From February 11 to today, with generous reader and community support, donations to In From the Cold allowed CAC to provide week-long hotel stays for dozens of families, during some of the worst cold in Kansas City. This is especially significant since there is no homeless shelter in south Kansas City. We are so grateful for the support. Please know it helped make people's lives a little easier and warmer. THANK YOU.

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 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 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.

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

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.

The March 2021 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 www.kccrimestoppers.com
- 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.*

[View Now](#)



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Missouri House of Representatives

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