state representative District 36
Forward
Dear Neighbor,
Pre-filing of bills to be considered by the 2021 session of the General Assembly will start on December 1, and I intend to reintroduce several bills I introduced or co-sponsored during this year's session that didn't pass, due in part to the shortened session caused by the pandemic.
My top priority will be to pass Blair's Law to make discharging a firearm with criminal negligence within city limits or into city limits a state offense. This legislation is named after Blair Shanahan Lane, the 11- year-old girl killed here in 2011 by celebratory gunfire.
My bill on this subject was combined with two other similar bills, one introduced by another Democrat and one introduced by a Republican, and this bipartisan measure which primarily contained the language in my bill was recommended for passage by the House General Laws Committee by a 12-1 vote, but it never came up for a vote by the full House during the shortened session.
Other legislation I sponsored that I intend to reintroduce include bills to:

Shorten the length of time students have to attend a high school in this state

certified to participate in the A+ program before they are eligible to seek reimbursement through the A+ program for tuition, books and fees at any public community college or approved vocational or technical school;

Broaden the types of non-violent offenses that are eligible for expungement to assist non-violent ex-offenders in securing employment;

Lengthen the time persons arrested for offenses involving a dangerous felony or deadly weapon can be kept in custody before a warrant is issued from 24 hours to 48 hours; and

Approve issuance of a special Negro Leagues Baseball Museum license plate to raise funds for Museum operations.

Legislation I co-sponsored I intend to introduce include bills to:

Prohibit the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services from denying trauma center status to a hospital based on its distance from another trauma center which will allow St. Joseph Medical Center to apply for trauma center designation; and

Increase the penalties for threatening or otherwise tampering with a witness or victim.

On another matter, I would like to commend local Be SMART volunteers for participating in the first National Injury Prevention Day November 18 by urging families with guns in their homes to protect children by storing guns unloaded and locked, with ammunition stored separately.

Be SMART is a program developed by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America which seeks to reduce unintentional gun injuries and deaths by encouraging the safe storage of guns and safe behavior around guns.

I would also like to remind area residents that Community Assistance Council (CAC) located at 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus is now open extended hours for persons in need to receive pre-packaged boxes of food.

During December CAC will be open from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, and from 9 to noon Saturday, December 12. Persons should call 816-763-

3277, extension 100, during regular business hours for appointments.

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, November 20th, 2020

COVID-19 SENATE OUTBREAK STALLS SPECIAL SESSION

Due to a COVID-19 outbreak among Republican senators and staffers, the Senate on Nov. 16 postponed convening to pass a supplemental budget bill and to act on another bill to exempt Missouri businesses and other entities from COVID-related lawsuits.

The Senate had planned to debate the bills Nov. 20, but now isn't expected to return until the first week of December if the outbreak has subsided by then. If the Senate sticks to that schedule, the House is expected to reconvene the week of December 7. The special session must end no later than Jan. 4.

The postponement came several days after Senate Republicans held a retreat in Branson. In photographs of the event posted on social media, most participants weren't wearing masks, including Gov. Mike Parson, who contracted COVID-19 in September. The number of senators and staffers who have tested positive for the disease wasn't immediately made public.

The House of Representatives passed the \$1.28 billion supplemental

budget bill on Nov. 10. The bill seeks to reallocate federal coronavirus relief funds that must be spent by the end of the calendar year and also addresses a few other mid-year spending priorities such as funding the new pretrial witness protection program created by legislation I cosponsored. The bill must still clear the Senate before it can be sent to the governor to be signed into law.

Two days after the House passed the budget bill, Parson expanded the special session to include legislation providing businesses, schools, churches and medical providers with broad legal immunity concerning COVID-19 exposures and related issues. That bill will first be considered by the Senate, and if it passes it will then go the House for our consideration.

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which has successfully pushed for a number of laws over the years shielding businesses from lawsuits, has advocated for COVID liability exemptions since last spring when the pandemic began. Critics say legal immunity would discourage protected entities from taking necessary steps to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, which continues to spiral out of control throughout Missouri and has prompted some cities such as Kansas City to reinstitute restrictions on gatherings and business operations.

Despite repeated pleas from the Missouri Hospital Association and other medical organizations, Parson has steadfastly refused to order a statewide mask mandate. Instead, Parson on Nov. 10 significantly relaxed guidelines for when teachers and students at Missouri schools should quarantine following COVID-19 exposures. Despite the more lax standards, numerous local public school districts, as well as the University of Missouri, are shifting to on-line only classes, either immediately or following the Thanksgiving break.

SUPREME COURT HEARS CASE CHALLENGING ANTI-UNION LAW

The Missouri Supreme Court on Nov. 16 heard arguments in a case that seeks to invalidate the remaining portions of an anti-union law that the state high court partially struck down earlier this year. A lower court has placed the entire law on hold while litigation remains pending.

The Republican-controlled General Assembly enacted House Bill 1413 in 2018 and then Gov. Eric Greitens signed it into law. The law contains various provisions designed to make it harder for public sector labor unions to operate, including prohibiting government agencies from withholding union dues from workers' paychecks, creating new hurdles to forming public sector bargaining units, requiring unions to be recertified every three years and subjecting government workers to immediate termination for picketing, including while off duty.

The Supreme Court on March 31 unanimously struck down that final provision as unconstitutionally overbroad in violation of public workers' free speech rights. That lawsuit, *Karney v. Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations*, didn't challenge the remainder of HB 1413.

In the current case before the high court, *Missouri National Education Association v. Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations*, the plaintiffs argue the law infringes on collective bargaining rights protected by the Missouri Constitution and also violates union members' constitutional rights of free speech and association. In addition, they allege the law's restrictions don't apply equally to all public sector labor unions by exempting those representing police and other emergency responders. The Supreme Court will issue a ruling in the case at a later date.

FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS REFORM OF PAROLE REVOCATIONS

A federal judge on Nov. 12 ruled various practices and procedures related to parole revocation hearings in Missouri are unconstitutional and ordered the state Department of Corrections to implement a long list of reforms, including ensuring parolees have an attorney, mandating that evidence against them be shared at least five days in advance of a revocation hearing and requiring such hearings to be conducted in a timely manner.

Ruling in a class-action lawsuit filed against the Corrections Department three years ago, U.S. District Judge Stephen Bough said the Department intentionally failed to provide attorneys to parolees who couldn't afford them and routinely refused to disclose evidence against parolees until the time of their revocation hearings, among other problems.

The MacArthur Justice Center, which brought the case on behalf of Missouri

parolees, argued that the state's unconstitutional practices resulted in many offenders being thrown back into prison without having a legitimate opportunity to refute the evidence against them. The Center alleged that parolees routinely aren't told they have a right to legal counsel and often are pressured into waiving their right to a hearing.

In his 55-page order, Bough said he is retaining jurisdiction over the case to ensure the Department begins implementing the required reforms, a move that allows him to more quickly intervene if the agency fails to do so. The case is *Gasca v. Precythe*



Today, I announced <u>#SaferAtHomeKC</u> guidelines for a partial slowdown of activity in Kansas City as our community continues its work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, based on recommendations from health leaders in Kansas City, in Jackson, Platte and Clay Counties in Missouri, and Wyandotte and Johnson Counties in Kansas. We all have a role to play in slowing the spread of COVID-19. We are Safer at Home and I encourage all Kansas Citians to significantly limit their activity as we work to mitigate the spread of this virus, which will help decrease the strain on our hospitals and

healthcare workers and keep your families safe.

We are in the toughest moment since this virus came into our communities, and overcoming this crisis requires an aggressive and immediate response. State lines, county lines, and city lines are nothing more than street names. It takes leadership and all of us—our entire region—to slow the spread.

New guidelines:

- 1. Indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people.
- 2. Restaurants, bars and event spaces must close at 10 p.m., require social distancing between different parties, and limit the number of occupants indoors to no more than 50 percent of building occupancy.
- 3. Indoor and outdoor patrons at restaurants and bars must be seated, and also masked at all times except when actively eating or drinking. Indoor and outdoor parties are limited to a maximum of 10 people and parties shall be spaced with no less than six feet of distance between themselves and individuals from any other parties.
- 4. Restaurants, taverns, and bars must immediately report known COVID-19 cases to the Kansas City Health Department.
- 5. Masks must be worn in all indoor spaces with more than one person per room, and outdoor spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- 6. Patrons of gyms, fitness and recreational facilities are required to wear masks at all times, and these establishments are limited to no more than 50 percent capacity.

I strongly recommend businesses to allow their employees to work remotely to the fullest extent possible, and families to avoid holiday gatherings. Any violations of this order can be sent to <u>COVIDViolations@kcmo.org</u>.

Right now, most of our community spread — nearly 50% of new cases — comes from those in their 20s and 30s. Please remember that while you may be healthy and able to overcome this virus, you could spread it to someone who cannot.

For every precaution you choose to ignore, hundreds of people will continue to suffer the consequences. It is just not worth it.

Your mayor and local governments will remain vigilant. We need you to as well, for the future of all of us in Kansas City.

Sincerely, Mayor Q



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 19, 2020 Governor Parson Signs Executive Order 20-19 Extending State of Emergency in Missouri

Issues Statewide Public Health Warning Due to Extreme Risks of COVID-19

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to rise in Missouri and across the Midwest, Governor Mike Parson today signed Executive Order 20-19 extending the state of emergency in Missouri through March 31, 2021.

This will allow continued flexibility in deploying critical resources around the state as well as the continued utilization of the Missouri National Guard and easing of regulatory burdens to further assist Missouri's COVID-19 response efforts.

"Missouri and the Midwest region remain central to the extreme COVID-19 outbreak our country is currently experiencing," **Governor Parson** said. "If we do not slow the spread of the virus, our health care system will quickly become overwhelmed. This creates a major risk not only for COVID-19 patients but anyone requiring health care support, from emergency situations such as car accidents to the treatment of serious health conditions such as cancer."

"Missouri is at a turning point, and if we are going to change the outcome, we must change our behavior," **Governor Parson** continued. With the onset of flu season and the winter months, respiratory illnesses will begin to spread more rapidly, and COVID-19 is following the same pattern. Due to these extreme risks, Governor Parson has issued a statewide public health warning outlining expectations for all individuals living and working in the state, including guidance for personal behavior, businesses, and travel.

The health warning also includes community level guidance and action plans based on three risk categories – extreme risk, critical risk, and serious risk. The Governor's Office will be communicating with mayors, county commissioners, and local leaders across the state to explain and help implement the appropriate guidance in their communities.

Wearing a mask, social distancing, and proper hand hygiene remain the three major COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Other key guidance includes the following:

- 1. Limit interactions with others to less than 15 minutes
- 2. Limit regular group interactions to a small group (10 or less) of family members
- 3. Minimize travel outside of Missouri
- 4. Consider occupancy limits reflective of social distancing

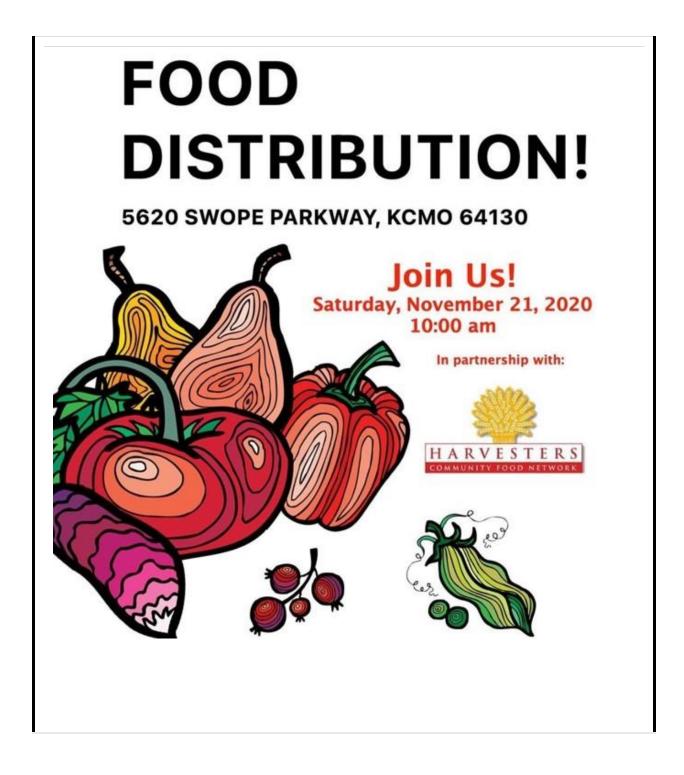
It should be noted that given the minimal transmission of COVID-19 taking place in schools, especially those that have implemented mask mandates, the social gathering recommendations outlined in the health warning are NOT intended to limit in-person learning.

"This is a critical time for our state. Everyone is affected. Every community is at risk, and until a vaccine is widely available to the public, the best weapon we have against COVID-19 is prevention," **Governor Parson** said. "This means that we all have to step up and do the right

thing."

"Our actions do make an impact. The actions we take today will determine where we are weeks from now," **Governor Parson** continued. "The bottom line is that COVID-19 is still here, it is serious, and we need every Missourian to take responsibility and do their part. The safety of our state and our citizens depend on it."

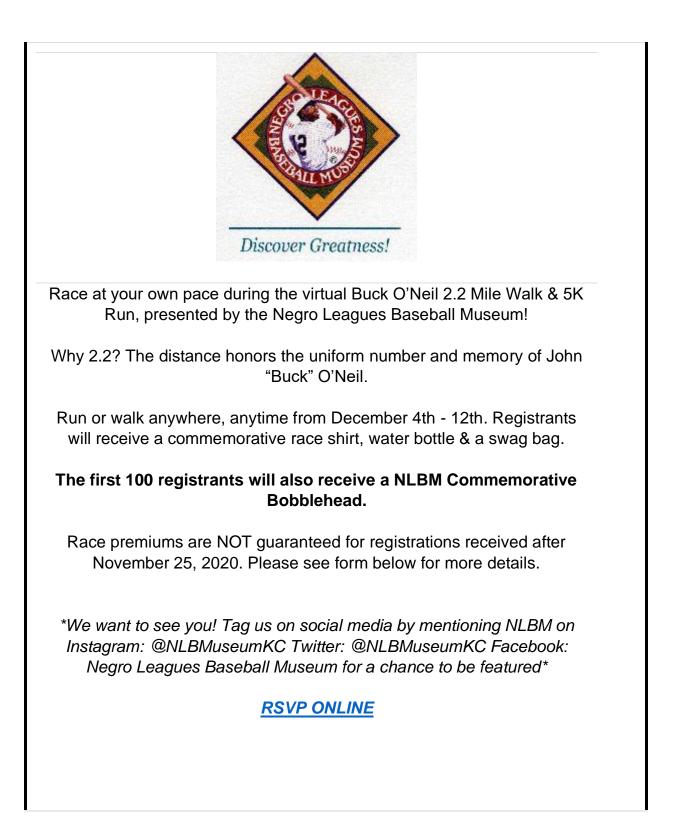
To view Executive Order 20-19, <u>click here</u>. To view the full public health warning, please see attachment.













Youth Counselor (Becoming a Man Program) - Hickman Mills

Position Summary

Becoming A Man (BAM) Counselors are responsible for guiding **young men in grades 7 – 12** to learn, internalize, and practice social skills, make responsible decisions for their future, and become positive members of their school and community. BAM Counselors do this by providing the young men with the mindsets, values and abilities they need to develop into healthy, responsible young men and thrive.

<u>Click here for the full job description (Youth Counselor (Becoming a Man Program)</u>



Youth Counselor (Working on Womanhood Program) - Hickman Mills

Position Summary

WOW Counselors are responsible for providing school- based group counseling and direct service to **girls in 7th-12th grade** through empowering them to develop responsible decision making skills, self-awareness, emotions management, self-acceptance, healthy relationships and social awareness. The WOW Counselor should be flexible in their clinical expertise and youth engagement skills to empower the girls to become successful in school and life.

<u>Click here for the full job description Youth Counselor (Working on</u> <u>Womanhood Program)</u>



Need Help Paying for Internet?

The Internet Access Support Program has funds available to pay for Internet service. If COVID has made it more difficult for you to afford Internet, the IASP can help you:

- 1. Establish new service
- 2. Pay off an old balance
- 3. Pay for ongoing service

The IASP can pay for up to 6 months of service. The program is only open to families with limited income. To qualify, you need to earn less than 2x the federal poverty rate.

Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis. So do not wait. Apply now! Visit <u>kcconnect.me</u> or call **(816) 200-0599** to apply.



Community Assistance Council is offering classes (by video or phone for now) to help **support individual, family and community wellness and stability**. These free online classes are **open to all**; CAC clients are encouraged to sign up. Visit www.cackc.org for registration links.

Learning About Developmental Relationships[™]: Dec. 11, 1 – 2:30 pm

- For anyone wanting to learn more about developmental relationships that result in high chances for success in children/youth.
- Presented by Shane Young, MSW, ReDiscover Mental Health Center
- Register to receive a ZOOM for video or phone call session link.

It's not enough to say that relationships matter. We've known for decades that high-quality relationships are essential to young people's growing, learning, and thriving—including for those young people who face serious stresses in their lives and in the world around them. Educational success and social-emotional development blossom when caring adults and supportive peers are present in young people's lives, and build developmental relationships. Relationships are developmental when they help young people discover who they are, nurture abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them. During this session, you will learn:

- How to identify and define a developmental relationship.
- The difference between connection and a relationship.
- · How developmental assets relate to developmental relationships.
- What the research says about developmental relationships.
- The elements and actions of a developmental relationship.

CAC Cooks!: Dec. 17, 1 – 1:45 pm

- For anyone looking for healthier meal options.
- Presented by David Zack, Café Gratitude line cook and CAC garden volunteer.
- Offered as a Facebook Event. Check out our Facebook page Community Assistance Council.
- David will share delicious ways to prepare those Holiday leftovers.

The Effects of Rewarding Good Behavior: Dec. 18, 1 – 2 pm

- · For anyone interested in learning effective skills for rewarding and motivating children
- Presented by Tonika Benson, Community Education Manager, Child Abuse Prevention Association.
- Register to receive a ZOOM for video or phone call link for the session

Children, like adults, enjoy attention. Children tend to continue a behavior that secures attention. Behavior that does not arouse a reaction or that is ignored is likely to fall by the wayside. The key to raising kids who learn positive behavior is consistent with a parent's reactions to their choices. Children who don't receive positive reinforcement will act out in order to get some kind of attention. Parents should be proactive and engaging, demonstrating and rewarding the behaviors they want their children to learn.

On-demand video sessions to watch at your convenience - at www.cackc.org

Mindfulness: presented by CAC Volunteer Jim McGraw

Daily relaxation practices to decrease muscle tension, high blood pressure, anxiety, etc. and other health stresses.

Autogenic Muscle Relaxation: presented by CAC Volunteer Jim McGraw

Self-relaxation method simple technique that leads to muscle relaxation, dilation of blood vessels in extremities, and overall sense of calm.

Trauma Informed Care: by Truman Medical Center's Center for Trauma Informed Innovation, iincludes practices that promote safety, empowerment, and healing for children and adults. Video helps participants understand the connection between symptoms and behaviors and trauma history.

For more information contact:

Julie Reid, 816-763-3277 x 110, julie.reid@cackc.org, www.cackc.org 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd, KCMO 64134 (on Ruskin HS grounds)



Face Masks available

Neighborhood Leaders may requests masks for distribution for their neighborhoods.

Adult and Small Children Masks

Email: neighborhoods@umkc.edu



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:

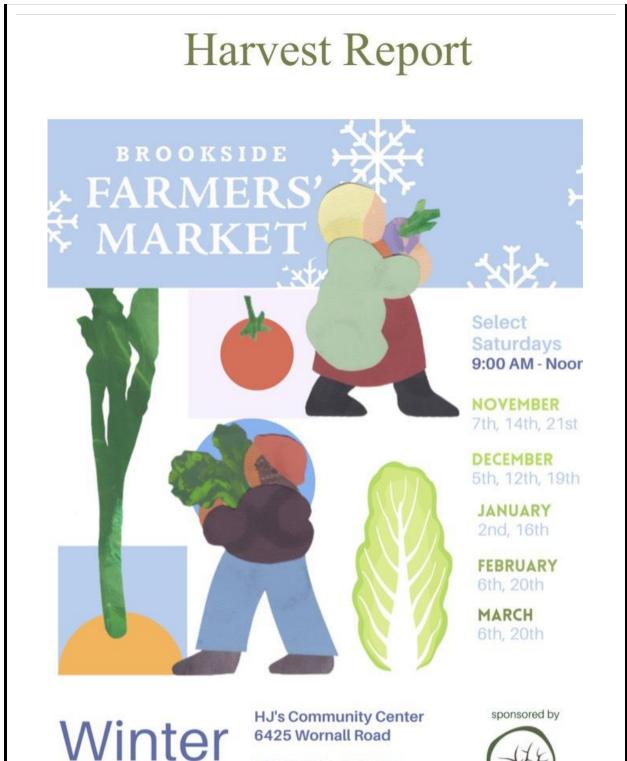
Contact the Family Support Division by calling **855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636)**.

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

1. Going <u>online</u>

2. Completing the <u>Child Care Application</u> and mailing it to your <u>local Family</u> <u>Support Division office</u>.

3. Contacting the Family Support Division at 855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636).



Market Sustainable FARMS ARTISAN FOOD LOCAL PRODUCE HOLIDAY GIFTS

www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com

lissouri Organic



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

Variety fruits and vegetables available at no cost to you

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 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. 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 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.

COVID-19

FREE TESTING CLINIC Testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals

Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred



of 1

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 jacohd.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 <u>kcmo.gov/coronavirus</u>

Missouri

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a <u>hotline</u> for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-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.

UNEMPLOYMENT

How to File?

If you're eligible, you'll <u>need</u> 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 <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: <u>816-889-3101</u> 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: <u>https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus</u>

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

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.





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