



Dear Neighbor,

It is a pleasure to be back in the Missouri House of Representatives serving the 37th District representing the people of south Kansas City. This was our third week of legislative session and except for the Missouri House debating the House rules (which are very important) there hasn't been much legislative business taken up on the house floor. That is mainly because House members had not received their committee assignments yet, but those were released to us this week. I am happy to report my enthusiasm with my committee assignments for this legislative session.

The two committee assignments I am most excited about are my chairmanship of the Special Committee on Urban Issues and serving as Ranking Minority Member on Crime and Public Safety. I have served on the Special Committee on Urban Issues before being appointed Chair in 2023 by then House Speaker Dean Plocher. I want to thank the new House Speaker Jon Patterson for entrusting me to chair that committee for another term. I have served on the Crime and Public Safety Committee since 2021 and I want to thank Minority Leader Ashley Aune and

Assistant Minority Leader Marlon Anderson for their support.

The Crime and Public Safety Committee met this past week and we heard two bills. The first bill was sponsored by the former chair of Crime and Public Safety, Representative Lane Roberts (Jasper County). House Bill 277 creates the offense of organized retail theft, similar to a conspiracy charge at the federal level. *South Kansas City and the downtown/river market area have been hit hard recently with organized retail theft and this legislation aims at curbing these recent events. I will likely be supporting this bill unless other hurtful language is added before a committee vote is taken.*

The second bill we heard was House Bill 495 sponsored by Rep. Brad Christ (St. Louis County). This bill pertains to the St. Louis City Police Department and takes control away from local elected officials, mainly the Mayor of St. Louis City, and gives it back to the state. This would overturn what the people of the state of Missouri voted in favor of statewide in 2012 to let the City of St. Louis control their own police department. The hearing for this bill took almost four hours to get through as we had many prominent figures from the St. Louis area testifying on the bill. Many supporters of the bill claim that giving control back to the state will increase public safety for people in St. Louis City and improve moral for police officers. Opponents of the bill including me believe all cities should control their own police departments.

In either case, Mayor Tishaura Jones and St. Louis City Police Chief Robert Tracy gave compelling testimony to our committee. Both Mayor Jones and Chief Tracy pointed to an increased number of applicants for the department, 7% pay raise for officers with less than 20 years of service and most importantly a reduction in homicides.

I spoke in committee on this bill several times but the main point I would like to repeat here is that the testimony of local officials indicated that they might have found something that works in St. Louis City due to a combination of working with and strengthening its relationships with the St. Louis City Police Department and community health partners. Before the hearing for this bill concluded I recommended that the committee table this bill or at least the portion of the bill that gives control back to the state and to allow Mayor Jones and Chief Tracy to continue their work and see how much more they can improve their city.

I have drafted an amendment to remove the St. Louis Police Department takeover language from the bill to be considered by the committee chair this coming week before we consider the bill for a vote out of committee.

Here is my current list of committee assignments for the 103rd General Assembly:

Special Committee on Urban Issues, Chairman

Crime and Public Safety, Ranking Minority Member

Joint Committee on Capitol Security

Joint Committee on Legislative Research

Revision Subcommittee - Joint Committee on Legislative Research

Consent and House Procedure

Local Government

If you would like to be added to this email or have any questions regarding state legislation or state issues please feel free to reach out to my legislative assistant Mariah Gilmore.

Mariah.Gilmore@house.mo.gov



The first item the Missouri House normally takes up for debate at the start of every new session typically are the Missouri House rules. There were several small requests for changes for example each caucus having the ability to refer to their respective caucus as a conference instead of a caucus, not a huge deal. However, other changes seemed potentially harmful in particular the super majority's request to change how much time a member can speak on a bill during third read debate. Third read debate is generally the final debate members have before a roll call vote is taken. This session all members have now been reduced from ten minutes to only five minutes to speak on bills up for a third read vote. I spoke in favor of the of an amendment that was offered by Rep. Ingle (Jackson County) to maintain the current ten minutes, and I also reminded members in the super majority that this will impact them too when they have to explain a 150 page omnibus bill in May. That amendment was defeated and the underlying motion to change the House rules offered by the super majority passed mainly on party lines with a final vote count of 106 yes and 54 no.



Last week on the House floor I was recognized for a point of personal privilege to honor my Grandmother Virginia Davis who recently passed at the age of 84. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother and her presence is missed dearly by her friends and family.



On inauguration day for the 103rd General Assembly during the Governor's Inauguration Ball my family and I had the privilege of participating in the traditional "Grand March" where all dually elected Missouri legislators walk down the stairwell of the first floor rotunda inside the Missouri Capitol. With me in the photo on the lower row is our daughter Candice Sharp, my father-in-law Tyrone Honeycutt, me, my wife Renee Sharp, my father John Sharp, on the top row are family friends Lou Mason and Lauren Fisher.



In November I had the pleasure of attending the annual Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Hall of Game awards ceremony. I was joined by other Missouri State Representatives to present a check from the state of Missouri in the amount of \$1.35 million to go to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. With me in the photo from left

to right are outgoing State Rep. Jerome Barnes, incoming State Rep. Donna Barnes, State Rep. Anthony Ealy Jr., President of the NLBM Bob Kendrick, outgoing State Rep. Richard Brown, State Rep. Michael Johnson and me.



IRS CERTIFIED VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING **FREE TAX PREPARATION**

- VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION
- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
- PROOF OF ADDRESS
- DEPENDENTS INFORMATION (SOCIAL SECURITY BIRTH CERTIFICATE)
- SCHOOL OR MEDICAL RECORDS
- ALL INCOME DOCUMENTS (W2, 1099'S, 1098, 1095S, BUSINESS RECORDS)

Every Saturday starting January 25, 2025

Time: 8:00 am -12:00 pm

Where: Community America Credit Union- Hickman Mills

11501 Blue Ridge Blvd.

Kansas City, MO 64134

Call 913.229.4159 to make an appointment



Police

KC/MO SOUTH PATROL DIVISION

quarterly
**CRIME
MEETING**



January 28, 2025



6:30 p.m.



SOUTH PATROL DIVISION
ANNEX BUILDING
9701 Marion Park Drive
Kansas City, Missouri

Annual SPORTS JERSEY Raffle

WIN A SIGNED, FRAMED JERSEY

from Bobby Witt, Jr. or George Karlaftis



TICKETS:

\$25/Ticket or
Purchase 1 Ticket for
Each Jersey for **\$40**

*The drawing will be held the
week of February 3, 2025.*

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:



HICKMAN MILLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

5401 E. 103rd St., Kansas City, MO
(816) 761-6667

hmc1hmf@hickmanmills.org
HMEDFOUNDATION.ORG



South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

Community Assistance Council, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or questions.

Red Bridge Area Food Pantry, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

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

Center School District, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

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 staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

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.

Red Bridge United Methodist Church, 636 E. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

Serve and Lift Center – South KC, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KCcrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives

Room 102-BA

201 W Capitol Ave

Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Phone

573-751-0238

Email

mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

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