

Dear Neighbor,

I'm extremely pleased to report that the bill I amended on April 12 to include Blair's Law to make celebratory gunfire and any other discharge of firearms with criminal negligence within or into city limits a serious state offense was recommended for passage this morning by a 4-0 vote of the Senate General Laws Committee.

The amended bill (House bill 944) is now awaiting consideration by the full Senate, and I fervently hope identical versions of it can be approved by both the House and Senate in the five days next week before the General Assembly adjourns Friday, May 14.

The House had approved the amended bill on April 19 by a vote of 109 to 36, with 7 legislators voting present. Because the Senate committee added another amendment to the bill, unless that amendment is stripped off by the full Senate and no other amendments are added by the full Senate, the bill will have to be sent back to the House to consider such amendments, making it more likely time could expire this session before final passage.

This legislation is named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who died after being struck by celebratory gunfire here on July 4, 2011. This morning's testimony for the legislation was extremely powerful, with Blair's mother, Michele Shanahan DeMoss testifying, "Nobody else should have to live through what I've lived through."

Major Kari Thompson, commander of the Kansas City Police Department's East Patrol Division, testified the Police Department strongly supports passage of Blair's Law, noting that calls about gunfire on major holidays like New Year's Eve and July 4 are "just overwhelming".

Major Thompson also stressed that reckless gunfire also is a problem throughout the year.

As an example she pointed out the death of 24-year-old KCUR radio reporter Aviva Okeson-Haberman who was found unconscious in her apartment on April 23 after being struck by a stray bullet that came through her window.

This young lady interviewed me when I was first running for this office in the fall of 2019 and asked me to tell her about a bill I intended to introduce if I was elected. I told her about Blair's Law and explained why it was urgently needed to deter reckless gunfire in cities. If the bill had passed last year, perhaps her death could have been adverted.

KCPD Sergeant Alane Booth who investigated Blair's death as a detective in the Police Department's homicide unit testified the bullet that struck her when she was outside playing with friends came from celebratory gunfire on the other side of a lake where numerous shell casings were found. That spot turned out to be over 300 yards away.

Both Major Thompson and Sergeant Booth testified that police need stronger penalties to deter such reckless and potentially deadly behavior.

Currently celebratory and other indiscriminate gunfire in Kansas City is just a city ordinance violation unless there are specified aggravating circumstances. My amendment that was adopted makes the first violation a Class A misdemeanor, the second a Class E felony and subsequent violations a Class D felony.

The original bill that I added Blair's Law to was introduced to allow

discharge of a firearm from a stationary motor vehicle on private property in rural areas to protect livestock from predators.

Other amendments were added to the bill that I didn't support, but with the addition of Blair's Law I firmly believe the amended version will do much more to improve public safety than to weaken it.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide, <u>Kaylee Bauer</u> 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*



I was congratulated this week by Missouri House Speaker Rob Vescovo after he signed Senate Bill 189 that I handled in the House to create a special license plate to raise awareness and funds for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City that now goes to the governor for his signature to become law.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, May 7, 2021

BUDGET NIXES MEDICAID EXPANSION FUNDING

Just hours before the constitutional deadline, Missouri lawmakers today granted final approval to the nearly \$35.1 billion state operating

budget for the 2022 fiscal year.

Gov. Mike Parson has until the new fiscal year starts on July 1 to sign into law the various appropriations bills that make up the budget and make any line-item vetoes of spending authority he opposes.

This year's budget is most notable for what isn't included: funding of a constitutionally mandated expansion of eligibility for the state's Medicaid program to 138 percent of the federal poverty level that will take effect July 1 making an estimated 275,000 additional uninsured Missourians eligible.

Most Republican lawmakers who have long opposed expansion refused to fund the expansion even though Missouri voters approved the constitutional amendment last year requiring the state to provide Medicaid services to the expanded eligible population.

Despite previously opposing Medicaid expansion, Parson consistently has promised to implement it after last year's public vote. The governor asked lawmakers to provide expansion funding, and his administration earlier this year submitted its expansion implementation plan to the federal government.

If expansion is implemented as constitutionally required on July 1, without additional funding the Medicaid program will exhaust its spending authority well before the end of the fiscal year, and the legislature likely will be called back for a special session to approve the needed funding. If the constitutional mandate to expand the program is ignored, litigation to require that the constitutional mandate be followed is considered almost certain.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, the federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost of expansion – about \$1.4 billion for FY 2022. In addition, implementation will secure an additional \$1.5 billion for our state under the latest federal COVID-19 relief package. Such an influx of spending would create an estimated 80,000 jobs and spark significant economic growth.

On education, the budget includes an \$8.5 million increase to the

\$3.56 billion formula for distributing state funding to local public school districts. Although that bump is sufficient to claim "full funding" of K-12 schools, that's only because lawmakers figuratively moved the goal posts a few years ago by drastically reducing the amount of new money required each year to claim full funding. In addition, the budget shortchanges funding for student transportation costs by about \$165 million from what state law says should be allocated.

After years of either flat appropriations or deep cuts to higher education, the budget provides increases of at least 3.7 percent to the core operating budgets of Missouri's public colleges and universities.

In another budget highlight, the state's chronically underfunded public defender system is slated for a \$3 million increase that will enable it to hire 53 additional attorneys to represent indigent defendants. Supporters hope the increased funding will help alleviate caseloads and avoid a constitutional showdown over whether the state is violating defendants' rights to adequate representation.

PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION AID WINS APPROVAL

The Senate on May 6 voted 20-13 to grant final approval to a controversial bill creating state tax breaks for donors who contribute to fund scholarships for students to attend private K-12 schools. The legislation initially would cost the state up to \$50 million a year in lost revenue, an amount that eventually could increase to \$75 million annually.

When the House of Representatives originally approved the bill in February, it received the bare minimum number of votes necessary for passage. I voted no. The measure then languished in the Senate for months, causing speculation that it had insufficient support for passage. In the end, it passed the Senate with just two more votes than the bare minimum needed.

House Bill 349 would allow people to donate to private organizations that in turn would provide scholarships to

qualifying students to partially pay for private school tuition. Donors would receive tax credits for the full amount of their contributions, meaning donors would end up being out no money, while the amount of tax revenue the state collects for public education and other services would be reduced.

While supporters said the legislation would provide opportunities for students to escape struggling public schools, opponents questioned whether many low-income families would actually benefit since they likely would not be able to afford the remaining tuition not covered by the partial scholarships.

Although the bill originally would have applied statewide, in order to win support from more rural lawmakers who feared the negative impact it could have on their local public schools, it was amended to allow only students in more populous cities and counties to apply for the scholarships.



Before the end of the 2021 session of the General Assembly a few of my House colleagues from St. Louis and Kansas City and I took a picture on the south steps of the Missouri Capitol. From left to right are Representatives Michael Johnson, Kevin Windham, Rasheen Aldridge, Marlon Anderson and me.

KCMO EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The full list of agencies and eligibility requirements is posted at :

KCMO.GOV/RentHelp



If you need help now, contact one of these agencies for **IMMEDIATE** assistance:

Metro Lutheran Ministry
 Call 816-514-2683 or
 Fill out the online application:
 www.mlmkc.org/rent---utility.html

Paper applications available at 3031 Holmes, KCMO 64109 & 1100 NE Vivion, KCMO 64118

- Journey to New Life Call 816-960-4808 or email agrove@jtnl.org
- reStart Call 816-886-9153 or email: rentalassistance@restartinc.org
- Community Assistance Council (CAC) 816-763-3277 x-108

Funding is provided by the second Congressional COVID-19 relief package.



Apply for assistance: communitycarelink.com/cares-act-assistance-sign-up

Because We Care

KC Wellness Event



STOP THE VIOLENCE

&

BE BLESSED

Free Horse Rides, Live Gospel Music: Rap, R&B, Rock Climbing Wall, Free Popcorn, Snow Cone, Hotdogs, Moon Walks, & More SATURDAY May 8th

at

Sycamore Park

10800 Sycamore Terr. KCMO FROM 12:00-4:00

Participating organizations
Vison Church KC, All Christians Together
Serving, Concerned Clergy Coalition,
KCPD, YWAM, Heaven Sent Ministries,
Bethel Family Worship Center, Salt and
Light Ministries, Kid City 7, Hickman Mills
Empowerment Center, KCFD, Hickman
Mills Community Alliance, Healthy Blue,
Church of Jesus Christ, IHOP, KCMO
Health, GX International, Team Xtreme,
Swope Health, Imani House, Inglesia Agua
Viva,

COMMUNITY BUILDERS OF KANSAS CITY HOSTS DRIVE-THRU EVENT:

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

VACCINATION EVENT

Location:

Memorial Missionary Baptist 11424 Hickman Mills Dr. Kansas City, MO 64134



Date:

Saturday, May 8th Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:





FREE FOOD, DIAPERS & CHILDREN'S BOOKS







PFIZER VACCINE

1st Dose - May 8th 2nd Dose - June 5th

SWOPEHEALTH

FOR INFORMATION VISIT:

https://swopehealth.org/vaccine-may8/ CALL TO REGISTER WEEKDAYS 9:00-4:30 (816) 321-3333

ALL MISSOURI RESIDENTS
AGE 16+ ARE ELIGIBLE!
WALK-UPS WELCOME!

Are you a nurse?

Do you need help with diapers for your child?



wants to honor you with a free box of diapers!

WHAT: Free Diapers for RNs, LPNs, CNAs!

(while supplies last)

WHEN: May 10th, 11th, 12th 11am-2pm

WHERE: HappyBottoms, 303 W 79th St. KCMO

*Drive up to garage door



Blood Donors are Always Royal.

Please make a life-saving blood donation at our upcoming blood drive. Present to donate and receive your choice of a limited edition Royals t-shirt or hat.

Can you help us make our goal of collecting 40 units of blood?

KC Police Department South Patrol Division

05/13/21 (01:00 pm - 06:00 pm)

9701 Marion Park Dr

KC Police Department South Patrol - Community Room

Kansas City, MO 64137

Schedule an appointment by clicking the link above or contact:

Cierra Pritchett – Community Blood Center Representative

cpritchett@cbckc.org or by text or call at 816.352.5372

Appointments are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**; walk-ins will only be accepted as capacity allows.

Please wear a face mask to your donation. If you do not have one, we will provide you with a mask upon your arrival. Remember to bring a photo ID or donor ID card. For questions about eligibility due to travel outside the U.S., medications or medical conditions call 1.800.688.0900. To learn more about the importance of donating at this time and to answer your questions about COVID-19, please visit www.savealifenow.org/coronavirus.

Did you receive the COVID-19 vaccine? You can still donate! To learn more, <u>click</u> here.

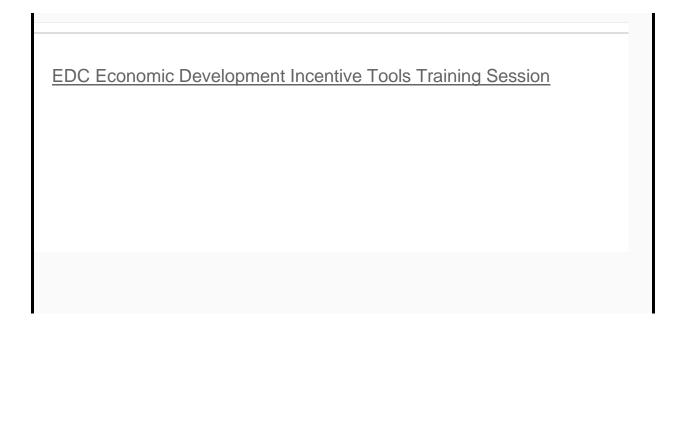
DONORS PRESENTING:

- Must wear a mask or face covering
- Will have their temperature taken
- Must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID-19
- May NOT donate if they have a positive diagnostic test or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- May NOT donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions

We do not test for COVID-19. Please see your health care provider if you want to be tested.

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

The next EDC Economic Development Incentive Tools Training Session has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. If you have been unable to attend any of the previous sessions, or if you would like to participate again for a refresher, please register at the link below. Feel free to share this with your contacts and colleagues who may also be interested in participating.





GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE

04

9:00 AM SHOTGUN START

GRAND SUMMITT GOLF & C.C.

Visit website to sign-up: http://www.dixongives.com/hickmanmills

LONG DRIVE & PUTTING CONTESTS

FOUR MAN SCRAMBLE

ENTRY FEE \$80 PER PERSON (\$50 FOR GRAND SUMMMIT MEMBERS) • \$320 PER TEAM • HOLE SPONSORSHIPS: \$100

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL CHARLES FARRIS AT

SPONSORS

HICKMAN MILLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION • CSD CREDIT UNION

Sixth District

June 12, 2021: 8 AM - NOON

LOCATIONS:

• RUSKIN SR HIGH SCHOOL 7000 E 111TH ST. KANSAS CITY, MO, 64134

Bulky, Brush, Electronics (Price List), Tire drop off (with or without rim in it), Document Shredder

ELECTRONICS PRICE LIST:

- · CRT Monitors = \$5.00 each
- · CRT TV's 26" or less = \$30.00 each
- CRT TV's 27" or greater = \$50.00 each
- · Wood Console and True Big
- Screen/Projection TV's = \$50.00 each
- LED/LCD/Plasma TV's = \$20.00 each
- Any Freon containing unit= \$10.00 each

SOUTH BROADLAND
 PRESBYTERIAN
 7850 HOLMES RD
 KANSAS CITY, MO, 64131

Bulky, Brush, Tire drop off (with or without rim in it), Document Shredder

SPONSORS:









For more information, contact Robert Woods at 816-513-8442

All staff will be abiding by social distancing policy and masks should be worn



P-SNAP approved for May

Missouri received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for May Pandemic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (P-SNAP) or Food Stamp benefits. P-SNAP maximizes the amount each household receives based on household's size. The P-SNAP benefit amount includes a 15 percent increase Missouri SNAP households will receive <a href="https://doi.org/10.2021/https://doi.org/10.202

NOTE

Thanks to the USDA's change to P-SNAP earlier this month, every Missouri household receiving SNAP benefits will get no less than a \$95 P-SNAP benefit for May.

Easy Online Purchases

For your ease, many retailers in Missouri now accept SNAP purchases online. Online purchases can make it easier for you to have food delivered to your home or ready for pick up at the store.

Check out our media release for full details.

September 30, 2021	
Household Size	Maximum Benefit
1	\$ 234
2	\$ 430
3	\$ 616
4	\$ 782
5	\$ 929
6	\$ 1,114
7	\$ 1,232
8	\$ 1,408

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- It is important for you to report to the Family Support Division (FSD) if you now have an income above the maximum limit (contact information below).
- If you are an able-bodied adult without a dependent, you must report any change in your circumstances to FSD (contact information below).

Questions:

- Visit myDSS.mo.gov to start a chat and get immediate answers to basic questions that are not specific to your case 24 hours a day.
- Call the FSD Information Line at 855-FSD-INFO or (855-373-4636) Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

SNAP/Food Stamp recertification interviews halted through June 2021

The Family Support Division reminds you that SNAP recertification interviews have been stopped through June 2021. If you receive SNAP/Food Stamp benefits, this means that you only have to submit the completed recertification form and any requested documents to continue SNAP benefits and do not need to call FSD. **NOTE:**Only new SNAP/Food Stamp applicants are required to do interviews.



Our Mission:

Empower Missourians to live safe, healthy, and productive lives.



DISTRICT 1

(Virtual) TUESDAY, AUG. 3, 6 – 8 PM (In-person) TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 6 – 8 PM

NNI - 5340 NE Chouteau Trafficway

DISTRICT 2

(Virtual) MONDAY, AUG. 9, 6 – 8 PM (In-person) MONDAY, JUNE 28, 6 – 8 PM Northland Cathedral, 101 NW 99th Street (Gym)

DISTRICT 3

(Virtual) FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 6 – 8 PM (In-person) FRIDAY, AUG. 6, 6 – 8 PM

Robert J. Multipurpose FOCUS Mohart Center, 3200 Wayne Avenue

DISTRICT 4

(Virtual) THURSDAY, JULY 8, 6 – 8 PM (In-person) THURSDAY, AUG. 2, 6 – 8 PM

National WWI Museum and Memorial, 2 Memorial Drive

DISTRICT 5

(Virtual) WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 6 – 8 PM (In-person) TUESDAY, AUG. 17, 6 – 8 PM Southeast Community Center, 4201 E 63rd St

DISTRICT 6

(Virtual) TUESDAY, JULY 13, 6 – 8 PM (In-person) TUESDAY, AUG. 10, 6 – 8 PM Hillcrest Community Center – 10401 Hillcrest Rd.

PIAC PUBLIC HEARINGS

PRESENT A PROJECT | SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES | ADDRESS REPRESENTATIVES

The 2021 deadline date to submit a request is August 31.

The Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) solicits resident input to make recommendations on citywide and neighborhood portions of the capital budget.

In addition to coming to the hearings, citizens can also tell PIAC about needed public improvements by completing a PIAC application request form. These forms will be available at the hearings or are available from the Capital Improvements Program by phone: (816) 513-1173 or by emailing piac@kcmo.org.

KCMO.GOV/PIAC



Speak Easy Sessions are opportunities for residents to speak directly to City officials and staff. Expect an interactive session and lots of discussion. We want your ideas to help us run the city better. For more information and other sessions, visit kcmo.gov/speakeasy.

How to sign up for the COVID-19 Vaccine

Eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine?

We are making it easier for you to get in line. Here's how it works:

Go to www.trumed.org
Click on the pop up link that reads
"click here to register."

When you sign up online, we will contact you when the vaccine becomes available. At this point, we are unable to estimate when we'll call for your appointment date.

Wait times depend on vaccine supply.

We appreciate your patience.

You may also call 816-404-CARE (2273) if you want to talk to a scheduler. Lines may be busy.

Please be patient.





COVID-19 Vaccine **Walk-In** appointments are now available at our two hospital campuses (2211 Charlotte and 7900 Lee's Summit Road) 7am to 2pm Monday through Friday. In addition, one may schedule a vaccine at www.trumed.org or by calling 816-404-CARE.

The Jackson County Health Department also has same day and appointments available. See https://jacohd.org/events

For a COVID-19 test, please see https://www.jacksongov.org/1190/COVID-19-Test-Sites for COVID-19 COVID-19 testing locations. Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged.

In addition, those who are <u>symptomatic</u> are encouraged to call 404-CARE, option 2, to schedule a drive through test at one of our two hospitals.

April 28, 2021

Please forward and share this information.

May Food Appointments

CAC has food appointments available 9 to 2:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 4 - 6 pm, Wednesday, May 5 and 9 am to noon, Saturday, May 22. Call 816-763-3277 x 100 for a food appointment. Hygiene items are distributed with food. Happy Bottoms diapers and pullups are available without an appointment 9 am to 2:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Call 816-763-3277 x 100 to register for diapers. Appointments are encouraged but drive-ups are acceptable if you see the red "Pantry Open" sign outside.

Save the Date - Community Cleanup June 12

Sixth District Community Clean Up Day will be 8 am to noon, Saturday, June 12 at Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St. (bulky items, brush, electronics for a fee, shredding) and South Broadland Presbyterian, 7850 Holmes (bulky items, brush, tires shredding). Download the flyer HERE.

Make a Donation - Make a Difference

- \$5 can provide fresh milk for a family for a month
- \$50 can provide food for a family for a month
- \$1000 can help a family avoid homelessness
- \$5,000 can provide full Thanksgiving or Christmas meals for 225 families.

To make a one-time donation or set up a monthly payment click **here**.

Call Rachel Casey at 816-763-3277 x 103 or email Rachel.casey@cackc.org to discuss ideas.

Community Assistance Council is the social services agency that covers South Kansas City, including all of Hickman Mills and Center School Districts, with a food pantry, Happy Bottom diapers and pull-ups, Giving the Basics hygiene items, KC Medicine Cabinet medicines and equipment, emergency rent and utilities assistance and limited case management. We'd love to give you a tour or provide a program for your organization!

Community Assistance Council | www.cackc.org

816-763-3277 x 103 | <u>rachel.casey@cackc.org</u>

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 tokcmo.gov/coronavirus

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.



The May 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 <u>www.kccrimestoppers.com</u>
- The P3 Mobile App

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

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

View Now



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KCcrimestoppers.com



P3Tips.com



State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives
Room 102-BA
201 W Capitol Ave
Jefferson City, Mo 65101
Phone

573-751-9469

Email

mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

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