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**Capitol Report**

**April 1, 2021**

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*Dear Neighbor,*

This week the legislative session focussed on passing the 14 bills that make up the state operating budget and sending them to the Senate to start their process. The Budget bills always start in the House.

The following is a breakdown of how I voted on the 14 appropriation bills for the \$32 billion FY 2022 budget.

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**I voted YES** on HB 1 (pays the state's debts). because we need to protect the state of Missouri's AAA credit rating.

**I voted NO** on HB 2 (Elementary and Secondary Education) because there is enough money to increase teacher pay in our state and we are not providing enough money for transportation and after school programs. Our children deserve better.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 3 (Higher Education) because Missouri is ranked 49th worse level per capita in the country when it comes to higher education funding. We have reduced funding by 14% over the past 10 years. Also, Missouri's HBCU's (Harris Stowe and Lincoln University) continue to receive lower amounts of funding compared to other institutions.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 4 (Transportation) because we are still one of the worst states when it comes to funding public transportation, We our at the bottom when it comes to funding for highway miles and our MODOT employees deserve an increase in pay.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 5 (Employee Benefits) the majority party refuse to follow the vote of the people to fund Medicaid Expansion. We as legislators have an obligation to follow and respect the law. We have the money and the federal government will provide most of the money to fund Medicaid. Shame on us! Medicaid Expansion was approved by you and I support fully funding the program.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 6 (Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation) because I have concerns on how the funding is allocated to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 7 (Economic Development, Insurance, Labor and Industrial relations) because I don't believe the bill focuses on the needs of the district I represent and the needs of the state. I would like more money for workforce development and job training for unskilled workers.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 8 (Public Safety) because more money needs to be allocated for programs for violence prevention and treatment for

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survivors of violence. Money for witness protection should also be a priority.

**I voted YES** for HCS HB 9 (Corrections) because it provides funding to increase pay for correctional employees. There are other employers in the marketplace that pay higher salaries than the salaries of our correctional officers and we need to be competitive in pay to retain and recruit Department of Corrections employees.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 10 (Mental Health and Health) because CDS (Consumer Direct Service) programs that provide personal care attendants for people with disabilities is severely underfunded. CDS consists of personal care (bathing, cleaning and meal preparation) to eligible persons over 60 and adults with disabilities between 18 and 59. I cannot support this bill because it too does not support Medicaid Expansion.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 11 (Social Services) because it does not fund Medicaid Expansion. This bill does provide for Medicaid in its present form.

**I voted NO** on HCS HB 12 (Elected Officials, Judiciary, Public Defender and General Assembly) because the budget does not provide enough funding for public defender legal services.

**I voted YES** on HCS HB 13 (pays the leases of state offices and related services).

Finally, **I voted NO** on HCS HB 15, which was a supplemental appropriations bill, because we could have used this money for Medicaid Expansion.

**All the bills were passed with more than 100 votes, due to the super majority of Republicans that exists in the House, in favor of passage for each portion of the budget.**

The 14 appropriations bills that make up the state operating budget will now be sent to the Senate, which in the coming weeks will craft its own version of the bills. Lawmakers will then negotiate final versions of the

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measures that must win final passage by a May 7 constitutional deadline. The 2022 fiscal year begins on July 1. Although **I do not serve on any Budget or Appropriations Committees**, I do believe we can do better as a state in meeting the needs of our people.

**To read the bills click [here](#)**

*Yours in Service,*

*Rich*

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### House Legislative Dashboard



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### **BILLS THIRD READ IN THE HOUSE THIS WEEK**

[HB 69](#)- Changes the law regarding the sale of metals

[HB 202](#) - Designates August 31 as Random Acts of Kindness Day in Missouri

[HB 295](#) - Establishes the "Peace Officer Basic Training Tuition Reimbursement Program"

[HB 369](#) - Limits liability for damage, injury, or loss caused by a prescribed burn or the resulting smoke of a prescribed burn

[HB 380](#) - Modifies the list of vehicles that may use or display fixed, flashing, or rotating red or red and blue lights

[HB 384](#) - Modifies provisions relating to the workers' compensation Second Injury Fund

[HB 387](#) - Modifies provisions relating to seclusion and restraint policies in public schools

[HB 488](#) - Prohibits political subdivisions from restricting utility service based on the source of energy delivered to an individual customer

[HB 530](#) - Modifies provisions relating to criminal offenses

[HB 533](#) - Modifies provisions relating to intoxicating liquor

[HB 557](#) - Establishes provisions relating to the protection of children

[HB 592](#) - Allows personal delivery devices to operate on sidewalks and roadways

[HB 697](#) - Modifies provisions for property assessment contracts for energy efficiency

[HB 733](#) - Establishes the "Workforce Diploma Program" within the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

[HB 834](#) - Creates provisions relating to payments for prescription drugs

[HB 1123](#) - Modifies provisions relating to the protection of children

### **CONSENT BILLS THIRD READ IN THE HOUSE THIS WEEK**

*A consent bill is a non-controversial bill that does not cost anything to implement and does not reduce revenues. It must also not create or expand a penalty provision*

[HB 100](#) - Establishes a Negro Leagues Baseball Museum special license plate

[HB 262](#) - Requires designations of veteran status to be placed on the front of official driver's licenses and ID cards

[HB 296](#) - Modifies definition of "surviving spouse" as it relates to state personnel law

[HB 298](#) - Extends the option to donate income tax refunds to the Missouri National Guard Foundation Fund

[HB 404](#) - Designates April as Limb Loss Awareness Month

[HB 449](#) - Designates the second Wednesday in May as "Celiac

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Awareness Day"

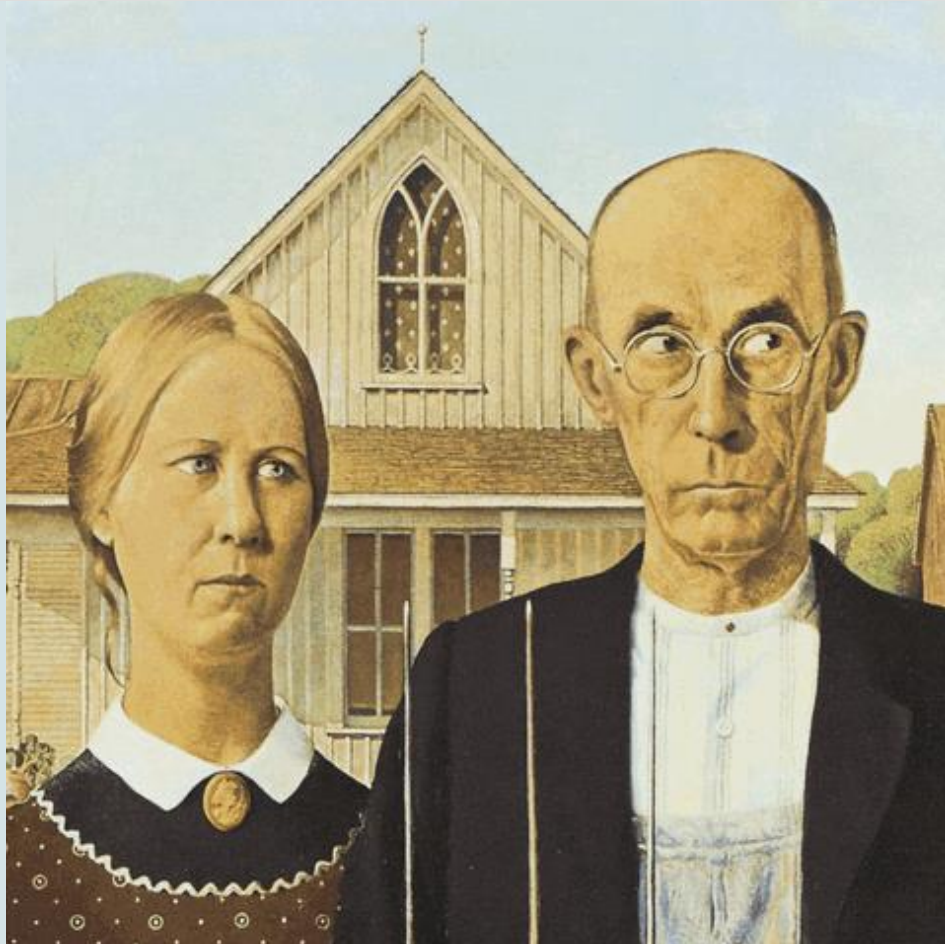
[HB 522](#) - Designates May 1 each year as Walthall Moore Day in Missouri

[HB 640](#) - Designates June as "Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month"

[HB 676](#) - Modifies provisions relating to the necessary mental state for a homicide offense

[HB 763](#) - Modifies requirements for retaining legislative employees when the general assembly is not in session

[HB 1053](#) - Designates the first full week in May each year as tardive dyskinesia awareness week



**HOUSE REPUBLICANS GUT MEDICAID IN FY 2022  
STATE BUDGET**

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The Missouri House of Representatives on April 1 passed a \$32 billion state operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year that defunds Medicaid in a last-ditch Republican attempt to block a constitutionally mandated expansion of the program's eligibility threshold. House Democrats made multiple attempts to restore the funding during debate on March 30, but all but a handful of majority Republicans opposed their efforts.

Because the state constitution now requires Medicaid to cover adults earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, an estimated 275,000 additional Missourians will be eligible for the program starting July 1, and Republican opponents can do nothing at this point to stop it. But by refusing to authorize the necessary spending authority for the expansion, it could cause the program to exhaust its funding partway through the 2022 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, the federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost of expansion, or about \$1.4 billion for FY 2022. In addition, Missouri would receive an additional \$1.5 billion under the most recently passed COVID-19 relief bill for implementing expansion. Prominent business organizations, including the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, support accepting the funding because of the massive economic boost and job creation that would result from infusing that much new revenue into the state's economy.

Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, included the additional Medicaid funding in his state budget proposal and acknowledged that health care savings resulting from expansion and the increased economic activity from the infusion of federal funds would be more than sufficient to cover the state's share. If the Senate, also controlled by Republicans, doesn't restore the funding and it isn't in the final budget, a lawsuit to enforce the constitutional requirement is considered guaranteed.

The House's version of the budget includes \$2.27 billion less in

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spending authority than Parson requested, with the missing Medicaid funding accounting for most of it. The House also failed to include a number of other items requested by the governor, trimming about \$32.5 million in spending for mental health services and more than \$23 million for various education program.

The House budget does provide sufficient spending authority to claim full funding of the statutory formula for distributing state money to local public school districts. However, the budget underfunds K-12 school transportation funding by nearly \$183 million from what state law says it should be.

The Senate will craft its own versions of the 13 appropriations bills that make up the operating budget in the coming weeks and is expected to be much more generous is allocating federal coronavirus relief funding that the House left unused. House and Senate negotiators must then hammer out a compromise budget for the two chambers to agree to by the May 7 deadline.

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## MISSOURI INDIVIDUAL TAX FILING, PAYMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 17

The deadline was pushed from April 15 to May 17. Gov. Mike Parson announced the extension Friday, saying additional time would help Missourians still reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The move follows the lead of the national government: The U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) pushed

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its filing deadline to May 17 this week as well. Additional guidance is expected in the coming days.

The extension does not apply to estimated tax payments due on April 15, only to individual taxpayers. Interest and penalties will still accrue on any unpaid balance beyond the new deadline.

An extension of the filing deadline for income taxes can still be requested, bumping the deadline to Oct. 15. Payments must still be made by the May deadline.

***Department of Revenue online services and resources:***

- The Department's [Tax Return Status Tracker](#) allows customers to enroll in automatic text and email alerts that are sent each time the status of their return is updated. Customers need their Social Security number, filing status, and anticipated refund or balance due to enroll and must re-enroll each year.
  - Get answers 24/7 by reviewing the [Personal Tax FAQs](#) or with the help of the Department's chatbot [DORA](#) a virtual assistant programmed to respond to common taxation, motor vehicle, and driver licensing questions.
  - Email questions to [income@dor.mo.gov](mailto:income@dor.mo.gov)
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## Missouri House backs plan to pressure state to drop limits on medical marijuana businesses

- [Jack Suntrup](#)
- [STLToday.com](#)

JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri House, during debate on the state budget on Tuesday, overwhelmingly backed a plan to pressure regulators to remove limits on the number of medical marijuana businesses in the state.

The proposal follows a wave of more than 850 lawsuits lodged against the state by medical marijuana entrepreneurs who were denied licenses to grow, sell and manufacture marijuana products.

The state has aggressively defended its licensing decisions, contracting with private law firms to fight off the challenges. Rising legal fees are paid for by money generated through the medical marijuana program. The marijuana funds, after paying for the cost of running the program, are then meant for veterans' programs.

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The price tag — [the Department of Health and Senior Services says it could pay \\$12 million in legal fees this year and next](#) — has concerned both Republican and Democratic lawmakers.

The proposal by Rep. Peter Merideth, D-St. Louis, voted on Tuesday, limits the amount the department can spend on legal fees next fiscal year to 5% of the medical marijuana program's total expenditures.

At the same time the state denied scores of applications, it also limited the number of marijuana businesses to the minimum allowed by the 2018 constitutional amendment authorizing the program.

Merideth's amendment also limits department spending discretion "unless the medical marijuana program suspends restrictions" on medical marijuana business licenses.

Lawmakers tacked Merideth's amendment to the bill by a 118-29 vote, with leaders such as House Speaker Rob Vescovo, R-Arnold, and House Majority Leader Dean Plocher, R-Des Peres, joining Merideth to support the change.

Of more than 850 original appeals, 675 were still pending as of Thursday, said Lisa Cox, spokeswoman for the DHSS.

She said last week the costs to the state of regulating "unlimited licenses" would "outweigh" the short-term costs of defending the state's licensing decisions.

House members continued to debate the budget Tuesday. Once it is approved, the plan moves to the Senate for consideration.

## CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR RETURN!

Want to receive regular updates  
on your 2018, 2019 or 2020  
Individual Income Tax Return?

Give the return tracker  
application a try!



After you have filed your  
return, sign up here to  
receive tracker email  
or text notifications.



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## Senior Service Awards

The Lieutenant Governor's Senior Service Award was instituted in 2005 to promote and highlight the positive accomplishments and contributions Missouri's senior citizens have made in their communities. **Individuals should be at least 60 years old and volunteer a minimum of 25 hours per year.** This is a wonderful opportunity to nominate an outstanding senior citizen in your area.

**The deadline to submit nominations is April 9, 2021.** I encourage you to nominate a senior whose service and dedication to their communities has made a positive difference.

The nomination form can be found here: <https://ltgov.mo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Senior-Service-Award-Nomination-Form-2021-fillable.pdf>

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**Missouri is currently vaccinating Phase 1A, Phase 1B and Phase 2 populations. You may determine your eligibility under Missouri's plan by selecting the appropriate button below.**

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[Phase 1A Eligibility](#)

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[Phase 1B Eligibility \(All Tiers\)](#)

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[Phase 2 Eligibility](#)

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### **COVID-19 vaccine website**

Missouri has launched a new vaccine website, which answers common questions and clarifies what it calls misinformation.

The new website is [mostopscovid.com](https://mostopscovid.com), and provides Missourians with information about the safety of the vaccines, research and production processes and when they could be eligible for vaccination.

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[COVID-19 Vaccine Navigator](#)

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**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.

**TMC**  
TRUMAN MEDICAL CENTERS



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[Click Here to get on the Wait List for COVID 19 Vaccine at Truman Medical Center.](#)



**STAY INFORMED**

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# The Pandemic aint over!

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

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City Hall, 22nd floor, [414 E 12th St, Kansas City, Missouri 64106](#)

Councilwoman Ryana Parks-Shaw | 816-513-6521 | [angela.pearson@kcmo.org](mailto:angela.pearson@kcmo.org)

Councilman Lee Barnes, Jr. | 816-513-6519 | [keema.mccoy@kcmo.org](mailto:keema.mccoy@kcmo.org)

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## UPCOMING 5TH DISTRICT MEETING

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**DATE: Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**WHEN: 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

**WHERE: ZOOM**

Featured Speakers:

Tammy Queen, Finance Director

Topic: Earning Tax

Frank Thompson, Health Department Deputy Director

Topic: COVID Vaccine

Megan Pfannenstiel, Municipal Court Director

Topic: Department Overview

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Apr 5, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: 5th District April Monthly Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82328719519?pwd=NnZLTWl1anFhK2NoUkR2MVp3d01Wdz09>

Passcode: 783258

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16465588656,,82328719519#,,,,\*783258# or +13126266799,,82328719519#,,,,\*783258#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or  
346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 823 2871 9519

Passcode: 783258

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**Leaf & Brush**  
 Spring 2021 Curbside Set-out Dates  
 KCMO.GOV/LEAFANDBRUSH

YOUR TRASH DAY	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	REGION MAP
MONDAY	APRIL 26	APRIL 12	MARCH 29	<p>NORTH: MISSOURI RIVER</p> <p>CENTRAL: BLUE RIDGE CUTOFF</p> <p>SOUTH: 43RD STREET</p>
TUESDAY	APRIL 27	APRIL 13	MARCH 30	
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 28	APRIL 14	MARCH 31	
THURSDAY	APRIL 29	APRIL 15	APRIL 1	
FRIDAY	APRIL 30	APRIL 16	APRIL 2	

## Curbside Leaf and Brush Collection happening now

In addition to the twice annual citywide leaf and brush collection, the City operates leaf and brush drop-off sites for your convenience.

### Spring 2021 Leaf and Brush Pick-up:

- Southland: March 29 - April 2
- Central: April 12 - 16
- Northland: April 26 - 30

The graphic is a promotional advertisement for the myKCMO app. It features a teal background with a white circular inset on the right showing a hand holding a smartphone displaying the app's interface. The interface includes icons for 'Report an Issue', 'Issues For Reported', 'Coronavirus Vaccine', 'Municipal Court', 'Pay Online', 'Elected Officials', 'Lost and Found', and 'How From Us'. The app name 'myKCMO' is visible at the bottom of the phone screen. To the left of the phone, the text 'Introducing myKCMO the new City app' is written in white, followed by the tagline 'Faster and easier connection to city services.' Below this, there are six red buttons with white text: '311 requests', 'Track your case', 'Upload photos', 'Report Potholes', 'Connect with staff', and 'Make payments'. At the bottom left is the myKCMO logo, and at the bottom center are the 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play' logos. At the bottom right is the City of Kansas City, Missouri logo.

**Introducing myKCMO**  
**the new City app**

*Faster and easier connection  
to city services.*

311 requests    Track your case    Upload photos

Report Potholes    Connect with staff    Make payments

**DOWNLOAD myKCMO TODAY!**

Download on the App Store    GET IT ON Google Play

**myKCMO**    CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

“This cutting edge new app will enable residents and visitors to more conveniently access information and report local issues,” said City Manager Brian Platt. “The more efficient workflow and request tracking system will allow us to respond quicker and more efficiently to concerns.”

Its features will help residents:

- Report and track 311 requests more easily
- Upload photos to show us the problem
- Connect directly with the staff member responding to the problem
- Make payments through the app
- Receive alerts when your 311 case is updated, and for other city emergencies

“The new myKCMO app highlights Kansas City government’s commitment to providing the basic services our residents expect, making it faster and easier for Kansas Citians to share with the City what requires attention in their own neighborhoods,” said Mayor Quinton Lucas. “myKCMO will be a helpful tool in our efforts to fill potholes and improve roads, and I encourage all to download the app today.”

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The myKCMO app is available for free download to your phone or tablet. Type “myKCMO” to find it in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

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# KCMO EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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.mlmc.org/rent---utility.html](http://www.mlmc.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 [agnove@jtnl.org](mailto:agnove@jtnl.org)

• **reStart**

Call 816-886-9153 or

email [rentalassistance@restartinc.org](mailto:rentalassistance@restartinc.org)

• **Community Assistance Council (CAC)**

816-763-3277 x108

The full list of agencies and eligibility requirements is posted at [kcmo.gov/renthelp](http://kcmo.gov/renthelp)

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

Tenants can apply for emergency rental relief through a new **\$14.8 million assistance fund**.

The City of Kansas City is working with community agencies to distribute rent and utility assistance in a fair, fast and equitable way across our community.

Apply for assistance:

[communitycarelink.com/cares-act-assistance-sign-up](http://communitycarelink.com/cares-act-assistance-sign-up)

For more info and other neighborhood services visit:

[KCMO.GOV/RentHelp](http://KCMO.GOV/RentHelp)



CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI

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**The reward has been raised to  
\$30,000 for Dominic**

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**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS  
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator**

**SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide**

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**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 [www.KCCrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCCrimestoppers.com), or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.**

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**Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards**

**Tips Hotline**

**816-474-8477**

**Web Tips**

**[www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**

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\* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

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My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentzsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

[Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.](#)



**Rep. Richard Brown**

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

MO House of Representatives

201 West Capitol Avenue

Room 134

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

[richard.brown@house.mo.gov](mailto:richard.brown@house.mo.gov)

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback,

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questions or ideas!

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