



Capitol Report

March 5, 2023

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Dear Neighbor,

It was a tough week in Jefferson City as the issue of returning the St. Louis Police Department back to state control. The state relinquished its control of the department after 152 years in 2013. Currently, there is no evidence that returning control of SLPD to the state will reduce crime. None of the legislators who sponsored the bills for state takeover of SLPD live or work in St. Louis.

Non-local control of the police makes the force less accountable to the citizens of that community. Across the country and here in Missouri, there's more demand for police departments becoming more accountable to the people they serve. A lack of local control hampers efforts at local accountability.

Kansas City is the only major city in the country that does not have control over its own police force, and it still has high crime rates. Springfield, Missouri also has a high crime rate relative to other cities of similar sizes.

High crime is a statewide issue, and all Missourians deserve solutions not politics. I will continue to work closely to find the best solution and outcome to this issue as many of you are also concerned about the local control issue as it pertains to KCPD.

Yours in Service,

Rich



I spoke with the media this week about the possible return of the St. Louis Police Department to state control and what that could mean to Kansas City's efforts to gain local control of KCPD.



First Read:	1478
Third Read:	17
Truly Agreed:	1
Signed By Governor:	1



House endorses state takeover of STL police department

Just 10 years after Missouri voters voted overwhelmingly to end more than 150 years of state control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the House of Representatives on March 1 granted preliminary approval to legislation to put the department back under state authority.

Although supporters of the bill tout it as necessary to stem violent crime in the city, there is scant evidence it would have an impact. When the state previously controlled the St. Louis police, there were several periods when crime was worse than it is today. In addition, crime rates are up in Kansas City, where the police already are state controlled, as well as in many other Missouri communities with local police oversight.

Opponents of the bill criticized it as a false solution and noted the recent increase in violent crime throughout Missouri has coincided with the systematic weakening of the state's gun laws by majority Republicans over the last decade-plus. Just weeks

earlier, House Republicans advanced legislation that would restore gun rights to many convicted felons after stripping a provision from the bill to prohibit children from carrying firearms without parental supervision.

The takeover effort has also drawn criticism since the largely white Republican legislative majority is seeking to take control of a key municipal department in a city with a Black mayor and population that is nearly half Black.

House Bill 702 would put a five-member Board of Police Commissioners in charge of the St. Louis police. The governor would appoint four commissioners, with the city's mayor filling the fifth spot. City taxpayers would continue to be responsible for paying all of the department's expenses but would have no input in how their money is spent.

The state's first takeover of the St. Louis police occurred at the outset of the Civil War as Missouri's secessionist governor sought to limit the power of pro-Union city officials and suppress the local Black population. State control lasted until 2013, after 63.9 percent Missouri voters approved a 2012 ballot measure restoring local authority. A second House vote is necessary to send HB 702 to the Senate.



Legislators reconsider allowing foreign ownership of farms

A decade after legislative Republicans overrode a Democratic governor's veto to lift a legal ban on foreign corporations owning Missouri farmland, the GOP-led House of Representatives on March 2 voted 130-3 to advance legislation seeking to restore some restrictions on foreign companies buying agricultural land. Supporters of the bill said limiting foreign control over agricultural production in Missouri – particularly by Chinese companies, given that country's increasingly adversarial relationship with the U.S. – is vital to national security.

Such arguments fell on deaf ears when Democratic lawmakers made them in 2013 amid a GOP push to lift the foreign-ownership restriction at the behest of agribusiness giant Smithfield Foods. Shortly after Missouri's ban was relaxed, a Chinese company acquired Smithfield. Current Gov. Mike Parson, who at the time was a state senator, was among the Republican lawmakers who voted to override then-Gov. Jay Nixon's veto of the bill.

Instead of reinstating the previous ban on foreign ownership, this year's legislation, House Bill 903, limits the amount of agricultural land that can be in foreign hands and prohibits companies with ties to five countries – China, Iran, North Korea and Venezuela – from acquiring Missouri farmland in the future. At present, China owns nearly half of the Missouri farmland currently under foreign ownership. HB 903 now advances to the Senate for further consideration.



I am honored and humbled to be recognized by the Missouri Nurses Association for Excellence in Health Care Legislation.





House moves to control state transportation spending

The Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commission would lose its constitutional control of state road funds under legislation that won first-round approval in the House of Representatives on March 1. A second vote is necessary to advance the measure to the Senate.

Since its creation nearly a century ago, the six-member commission has enjoyed constitutional protection from legislative meddling over how tax revenue earmarked for roads and bridges is allocated. Although lawmakers must approve most state spending, revenue in the State Road Fund stands appropriated “without legislative action” and can only be spent as determined by the commission, which is the governing authority the Missouri Department of Transportation.

House Joint Resolution 37 would subject spending from the road fund to legislative approval and delete the existing language granting the commission the “sole discretion” to determine how the money is allocated, thus allowing lawmakers to determine which projects receive funding. As a proposed constitutional amendment, HJR 37 would automatically go on the November 2024 ballot for voter ratification if it clears both legislative chambers.



I took time out this week to visit inmates at the Jefferson City Correctional Center. I always remind people that our current inmates are not forgotten people as most of them will come home one day.

PEACE FOR UKRAINE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



HOW DO I KNOW WHETHER A CHARITY IS LEGITIMATE OR A SCAM?

Visit ago.mo.gov/divisions/consumer/check-a-charity and enter the name of the charity in the box for information regarding that charity.

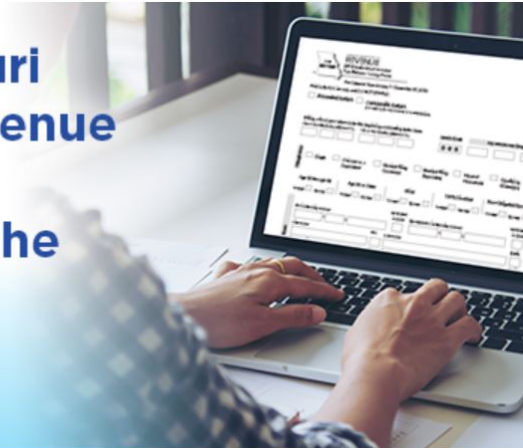
FILE A COMPLAINT

Visit ago.mo.gov/divisions/consumer/consumer-complaints or call the Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 392-8222

Individual Income Tax Electronic Filing

**The IRS and Missouri
Department of Revenue
are now accepting
e-filed returns for the
2022 tax year**

[Click here for more information](#)



Obtaining the status of your tax return

The Missouri Return Inquiry System provides information regarding the status of your Missouri tax return. After entering your information, you will also have the option of being notified by text or email when the status of your tax return changes. You may only view the status of 2018 or later year returns.

Sign up

*to receive
automatic updates!*

Receive text or email notifications each time the status of your return changes.

Access the **Missouri Return Inquiry System** to find out how.



What tax years and returns can I check on?

- 2018 and forward Missouri Individual Income Tax returns
- 2018 and forward Missouri Property Tax Credit (PTC) claims

What information do I need to get started?

- Social security number
- Filing status
- Anticipated refund or balance due

When will my return information be available?

- Up to 5 business days after filing electronically
- Up to 3 - 4 weeks after mailing your paper return

What information will I receive?


- Easy-to-read graphics indicating the status of your return
- Refund issue date, if applicable

RIGHT TO COUNSEL

FREE Legal Services for Tenants Facing Eviction



KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI

 KC is the **13th city**
to offer this service free

 **Helped 100s of families**
Since launching June 1

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EVICTION RATE



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816-474-5112 | gkcassistanceprogram.org/EvictionDefense/

MEDICAID UPDATE

Medicaid Annual Renewals to Restart April 1, 2023

Since COVID hit, we have been in a Public Health Emergency (PHE). As part of the PHE, Missouri has not been able to disenroll anyone from Medicaid except in very limited circumstances.

The federal government is ending the PHE for Medicaid on April 1, and **Missouri will start the process of reviewing eligibility for all Medicaid participants.** Participants will be processed by their renewal month (generally the month the family initially signed up for Medicaid).

Get ready for renewals by keeping your contact information up to date so you can get important updates in the mail. **If your address has changed in the last 3 years, you will need to notify the Family Support Division.** You can update your address [online](#), at a [Family Services Division office](#), or by calling 855-373-4636.

You will receive a letter in the mail sometime between April 2023 and April 2024. You can check the [annual renewal timeline](#) to find out when you should expect to get your letter. This letter will tell you what, if anything, you need to do next. If a response is required, make sure to submit it by the deadline so you do not risk losing your healthcare coverage.

Important Medicaid Alert

Missouri will be restarting Medicaid eligibility renewals on April 1, 2023.



PREPARE TO RENEW

Beginning April 1, the Family Support Division will again be required to check the eligibility of all MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) participants each year. This is called a Medicaid eligibility renewal, or annual renewal. Follow these steps to make sure you complete your renewal on time:



Report changes, like a new address, to the Family Support Division



Watch for an annual renewal form or letter in the mail



Complete renewal form (if you get one) by the deadline in letter

Learn more about renewals and update your address at mydss.mo.gov/renew.



Missouri Department of
SOCIAL SERVICES

Learn more
mydss.mo.gov/renew



IN MEMORIAM



Kansas City and the jazz world has lost two giants this week .
We lost Ida Macbeth and Ronnie McFadden. Their legacy will
live on forever. God bless them both.

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



**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

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, 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.



Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards

Tips Hotline

816-474-8477

Web Tips

www.KCcrimestoppers.com

Free Mobile App

www.P3Tips.com

* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

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 Gentsch 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

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MO House of Representatives

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questions or ideas!

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