

LINC Commission Meeting

March 26, 2012

Aging in Kansas City



Local Investment Commission (LINC) Vision

Our Shared Vision

A caring community that builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for children, families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, attain their highest potential, and contribute to the public good.

Our Mission

To provide leadership and influence to engage the Kansas City Community in creating the best service delivery system to support and strengthen children, families and individuals, holding that system accountable, and changing public attitudes towards the system.

Our Guiding Principles

1. **COMPREHENSIVENESS:** Provide ready access to a full array of effective services.
2. **PREVENTION:** Emphasize “front-end” services that enhance development and prevent problems, rather than “back-end” crisis intervention.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Measure system performance by improved outcomes for children and families, not simply by the number and kind of services delivered.
4. **INTENSITY:** Offering services to the needed degree and in the appropriate time.
5. **PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT:** Use the needs, concerns, and opinions of individuals who use the service delivery system to drive improvements in the operation of the system.
6. **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Decentralize services to the places where people live, wherever appropriate, and utilize services to strengthen neighborhood capacity.
7. **FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS:** Create a delivery system, including programs and reimbursement mechanisms, that are sufficiently flexible and adaptable to respond to the full spectrum of child, family and individual needs.
8. **COLLABORATION:** Connect public, private and community resources to create an integrated service delivery system.
9. **STRONG FAMILIES:** Work to strengthen families, especially the capacity of parents to support and nurture the development of their children.
10. **RESPECT AND DIGNITY:** Treat families, and the staff who work with them, in a respectful and dignified manner.
11. **INTERDEPENDENCE/MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Balance the need for individuals to be accountable and responsible with the obligation of community to enhance the welfare of all citizens.
12. **CULTURAL COMPETENCY:** Demonstrate the belief that diversity in the historical, cultural, religious and spiritual values of different groups is a source of great strength.
13. **CREATIVITY:** Encourage and allow participants and staff to think and act innovatively, to take risks, and to learn from their experiences and mistakes.
14. **COMPASSION:** Display an unconditional regard and a caring, non-judgmental attitude toward participants that recognizes their strengths and empowers them to meet their own needs.
15. **HONESTY:** Encourage and allow honesty among all people in the system.



Monday, March 26th, 2012 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. February minutes (motion)
- III. Superintendent's Reports
- IV. Heartland EngAGEment Initiative
 - a. Gene Wilson
 - b. Marlene Nagel - MARC
- V. President's Report
- VI. Other
- VII. Adjournment



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – FEB. 27, 2012

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Chairman **Landon Rowland** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Jack Craft
Steve Dunn
Herb Freeman
SuEllen Fried
Rob Givens
Anita Gorman
Bart Hakan

Adele Hall
Rosemary Lowe
Sandy Mayer (for Mike Sanders)
Mary Kay McPhee
Richard Morris
Marge Peltier
David Ross
Bailus Tate

A motion to approve the Jan. 23, 2012, LINC Commission meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

Jason B. Wood of the United Way of Greater Kansas City announced that the Urban Neighborhood Initiative has selected the initial area on which it will focus its efforts. The area is located between Troost and Highway 71, from 23rd Street to 51st Street.

Superintendents' Report

- **Todd White** (Superintendent, North Kansas City School District) reported Staley High School was nominated for the National Blue Ribbon Schools program but has not been in existence long enough to be eligible. He also reported the district is partnering with Metropolitan Community Colleges to develop a “2+2” program which will allow students to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate’s degree
- **Everlyn Williams** (Deputy Superintendent, Hickman Mills School District) reported the district, in partnership with LINC, is encouraging parent involvement through Parent University events. The second Parent University will be held March 1 and will be focused on bullying prevention. Aim 4 Peace will support the event.
- **Jim Hinson** (Superintendent, Independence School District) reported the district will be opening two new elementary schools (one this summer and one next summer) and is monitoring activity around education in the state legislature.

Gayle A. Hobbs introduced a presentation by several LINC Caring Communities site coordinators:

- **Bennie Avery** (Belvidere Elementary School, Grandview School District) reported on the following activities:
 - Developing partnerships with Grandview High School for students to provide tutoring; with Purpose Publishing Co. to provide reading and writing activities; and with Grandview Nonprofit Roundtable to provide faith-based partners for each Grandview Caring Communities site
 - Providing activities to support academic achievement including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities and chess program
 - Increasing parent involvement through “Bobcat Dads” male mentoring program
- **Ken Lingelbach** (Blue Hills Elementary School, Fort Osage School District) reported on

the following activities:

- Development of family food security initiatives including partnership with Harvesters to provide food pantry, mobile food pantry, Backsnack weekend food program, and holiday family assistance.
 - Development of partnerships with Swope Health Services to provide mobile dental van, and with Heart to Heart International to provide 200 backpacks for students
 - Development of enrichment activities that involve families including LINC chess program and cupstacking
 - Serving as community liaison to bring groups in to use the school beyond school hours
- **Casey Conklin** (Burke Elementary School, Hickman Mills School District) reported on the following activities:
 - Parent involvement activities including Parent University, Up With Parents, and Health Fair at Hickman Mills Junior High on May 5; Project Shine school beautification effort; district-wide basketball league utilizing parent coaches; parents helping build garden plots in schoolyard garden initiative; promoting cooperation between Caring Communities site council and PTA
 - Caring Communities providing immediate assistance to family during tragedy
 - **Adrian Wilson** (Chouteau Elementary and Maplewood Elementary schools, North Kansas City School District) reported on the following activities:
 - Building relationships with students, staff, administration and community
 - Developing partnership with the Vision Van to provide free eye exams and glasses for students
 - Connecting families with health care providers and transportation
 - Organizing celebration of grandparents
 - **Kelley Harden** (Wheatley Elementary School, Kansas City, Mo. School District) reported that Wheatley has a high population of students with special needs including behavioral and physical disabilities. Staff and parents rely on Caring Communities to know and share how students are doing throughout the day.
 - **Marqus Rose** (Korte Elementary School, Independence School District) reported on the efforts of the Independence Caring Communities sites to build relationships among parents, school staff and administration including
 - Developing an advisory board for Spanish-speaking district parents and developing parenting classes (Fairmount Elementary)
 - Working with site council to develop strategies for dealing with behavioral issues (Benton and Bryant Elementary)
 - Developing anti-bullying activities (William Chrisman High School)

Discussion followed.

An excerpt of a documentary about Freedom Inc. featuring **Rosemary Lowe** was shown.

The meeting was adjourned.

Global Woman: SuEllen Fried



How has your professional work allowed you to provide/enhance opportunities for other women and girls? What inspired you to follow your career path?

I have mentored and trained thousands of women educators, counselors and administrators to facilitate a highly effective bullying prevention program in schools across the country over the past 18 years. Female bullying - particularly verbal, emotional and cyberbullying - is a tremendous problem that has led to heartbreaking suicides. The BullySafeUSA program that I founded and created deals specifically with female peer abuse as part of the curriculum.

My career path emerged from my volunteer work. I was Chairman of Prevent Child Abuse America, formerly known as the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, from 1980-82 and became deeply committed to preventing the abuse and maltreatment of children. When I met a 10 year old girl who was being taunted by her classmates because chemotherapy treatments had left her without hair, I decided to take on the issue of children abusing each other - peer abuse. I co-authored a book on the subject of bullying with my daughter in 1996, three years before the tragedy at Columbine High School. An appearance on the TODAY Show together with three additional books has taken me on an exciting, meaningful professional path. I have worked with over 70,000 students and educators in 36 states and given countless keynote addresses, workshops and conference presentations. The focus of my career at this time in my life is to train others to do the work that I have developed.

Why is International Women's Day a crucial day for women around the world?

International Women's Day is an important way to celebrate the role that women have played as effective advocates for issues of injustice throughout history. Recognizing and honoring the extraordinary achievements of women can encourage and inspire others to use their spirit, their heart and their skills to make a difference with their lives.

It is said that women are more successful when other women are their mentors. Who was/is your mentor and why?

There are five women who have been profound mentors in my life.

First, was my mother, Adeline Weissman, who was president of my high school PTA, a Cub Scout leader, and a community volunteer who imprinted me with the belief in community service and the joy of giving.

My dance teacher for 12 years, Madame Victoria Cassan, taught me to give every ounce of my being when I danced and to give fully to everything I do. Her dance studio was my sanctuary when I was going through the angst of being a teenager and an appreciation for the curative power of the arts.

Rosalie Bowker was the Director of Volunteer Services at Osawatomie State Psychiatric Hospital, in Osawatomie, KS. In 1961, when some patients expressed an interest in learning to dance the Cha-Cha, she searched extensively to find someone who would respond to their request. At that time, I was married and had three children and I lived 45 miles away, but I was intrigued with the idea of using my dance background in an unimagined way. Rosalie opened a world to me that I had never experienced and she found a psychiatrist to supervise me which led me to become a dance therapist, a prison volunteer, and president of the Kansas Mental Health Association. Most importantly, through example, she taught me to be non-judgmental and to see the value in every human being. Her presence and connection was life-changing for me.

Donna Stone founded the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse in 1972. She invited me to create a model chapter in Kansas for the national organization that could be replicated across the country in 1976, and because of our success, she asked me to become Chairman of the NCPA (now Prevent Child Abuse America) in 1980. She guided me to have a national vision. Through her leadership, I learned how to work with the media, to negotiate the political process, acquire skills in organizational development, and fund-raising. Her motto was: "Anything is possible, the impossible just takes a little longer." My daughter, Paula Fried, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist, was co-author of my first two books on bullying. She brought psychological theory and understanding about the dynamics of the human psyche to our collaboration. Having her as my partner in my first venture as an author was truly marvelous. It was through Paula that I met Kimberly Weisel, the 10 year-old leukemia patient who motivated me to tackle the issue of bullying - another life-changing event.

What is the greatest obstacle you see for women of the generation of 2025?

I believe that the greatest obstacle for women in the generation of 2025 is technology. Technology is a blessing and a curse. While technology will enable women to reach amazing levels of achievement, I am deeply concerned that the dependency and detachment in personal communication that comes with technology will dilute the nurturing soul of women. I fear that our capacity for compassion and empathy will be corrupted by the infinite ways technology separates us from the profound interpersonal connections that define our persona. I also realize that reaching eighty years old in 2012 is probably a factor in my concern.

Three pieces of advice to women on International Women's Day?

My three pieces of advice to women on International Women's Day are:

- Find a passion that will take you on a magnificent journey of self discovery and self empowerment.
- Believe in the possibility of transformation for every human being - be they the most psychotic psychiatric patient, the most heinous criminal, or the most severely abused child.
- Appreciate being part of a bond of sisterhood that has brought so much healing, affirmation and creativity to the world.

SuEllen Fried has had a remarkable life journey that began with her dream to become a ballerina. Marriage and the birth of three children took her away from the stage but led to become a creator of dance therapy and a Charter

Member of the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) in 1966. Participants in the field of dance therapy are predominantly women - both as healers and patients. Dance therapy has given thousands of women who had been dancers, opportunities to have a meaningful career and tens of thousands of patients to build confidence and successful relationships. While volunteering at the Osawatomie State Hospital in Kansas for 17 years, she innovated "Show Biz" therapy. Psychiatrists, including Dr. Karl Menninger, marveled at the curative powers for patients who performed in musical productions and the audience's change in attitude towards the mentally ill.

When Dr. Menninger wrote a book *The Crime of Punishment*, Fried was inspired to co-found a self-help program for incarcerated men and women in Kansas prisons, Reaching Out From Within (ROFW). She has been a volunteer with the Kansas Department of Corrections for thirty years and is president emeritus of the outside ROFW organization. The recidivism rate for inmates who participate in 40-60 meetings is 17%, for those who attend 60 or more meetings is 8%. The national recidivism rate is 50-67%. Women prisoners with ROFW wrote, produced and performed a powerful play about their experiences as abused women. Fried arranged for the play to be filmed and it is being shown to men in prison in Kansas. Fried was named President George H.W. Bush's 900th Point of Light because of her prison work.

Her dance therapy experiences served as a spring-board for her to become the first woman president of the Kansas Mental Health Association (KMHA) in 1970. Her organizational skills in leading a statewide organization attracted the attention of a national organization that was forming to prevent child abuse. In 1976 she was asked to orchestrate a Model Chapter for the group, now known as Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA). The success of the Kansas model prompted her to become Chairman of PCAA in 1980 and she continues to serve as a Life Board member. A major program of PCAA is Healthy Families America, a home visitor support service for mothers of new-borns at risk for child abuse. She has been closely involved with this program since its inception.

Fried saw the connection between child abuse and peer abuse and wrote the first of four books on bullying in 1996, three years before the Columbine tragedy. She has since co-authored three other books and a workbook on bullying and was invited to participate in the White House Conference on Bullying Prevention in 2011. She founded BullySafeUSA in 2002 and has worked with over 70,000 students and educators in thirty-six states and countless schools.

Kids ready for spelling bee Location and sponsor new this year

By Kelly Evenson

Even with significant changes to the 2012 Jackson County Spelling Bee, Mary Thompson said families and students seemed to handle the challenges and struggles well.

“There were struggles. We ended up reaching capacity at one of the division bees and had to ask parents and families to wait outside the room until space became available. This is a great problem to have, but very frustrating on the families,” said Thompson, outreach manager for the Kansas City Public Library. “Many parents and bee coordinators expressed gratitude to the Jackson County Spelling Bee team for picking up the bee this year. There wouldn’t have been a bee otherwise.”



This is the first year in decades that the annual competition is not sponsored by The Examiner. Instead, the Mid-Continent Public Library joined with the Kansas City Public Library to host the event. With the change in sponsorship came reorganization. This means a school bee, followed by two division bees and finally the championship bee. The two division bees, held at the Mid-Continent North Independence Branch and the Plaza Library, were March 10.

“This year was a major learning curve because it was the first year for the library to host the bee. We also have the pleasure of partnering with the Mid-Continent Public Library and LINC,” Thompson said. “I also want to thank Sandy Turner, past spelling bee director, for all her wisdom and support. Without her, we couldn’t have pulled it off.”

Those who spelled correctly through three rounds of the division bee advanced to the final competition, which is Saturday at the Plaza Branch, 4801 Main St. The competition begins at 9 a.m. and is open to the public. The winner will compete at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

Students competing in Saturday’s championship round are Anna Cole, Delta Woods Middle School (Blue Springs); Anna Kochman, Voy Spears (Blue Springs); Ben Hume, Longview Farm (Lee’s Summit); Christian Kuhlman, Bernard Campbell (Lee’s Summit); Dwight Gilbreath, Martin City Middle School (Grandview); Eghosasere Ogbevoen, Red Brigade (Center); Elizabeth Rovenstine, Brittany Hill (Blue Springs); Ellen Rodgers, Summit Lakes (Lee’s Summit); Emerald Westley, Derrick Thomas Junior Academy (Kansas City); Gabrielle Eyre, Prairie View (Lee’s Summit); Gabrielle Vaoifi, Indian Trails (Fort Osage); Glen Vaughn-Peterson, Christ The King Parish School (Private); Haydon Cornett, Cedar Creek (Lee’s Summit); Jed Rellihan, Our Lady of Presentation (Private); Johnathan Blocker, Chapel Lakes (Blue Springs); Jordan Hoffman, Pleasant Lea Middle School (Lee’s Summit); Kaylea Bryan, Greenwood Elementary School (Lee’s Summit); Marilyn Garcia, Frontier School of Innovation (Private); Meah Wilburn, Highland Park (Lee’s Summit); Melanie DuPont, Maple Elementary (Oak Grove); Melorin Arimzadeh, Trailridge Elementary School (Lee’s Summit); Noah Phillips, Lee’s Summit Home Educators; Sarah Rice, Westview Elementary School (Lee’s Summit); Shaurir Ramanujan, Academy Montessori International (Private); Shekinah Mathis, The Daniel Academy (Private); Sydney Poppe, Hawthorn Hill (Lee’s Summit); Vincent Otto, Messiah Lutheran School (Private) and Wilson Miller, John Nowlin (Blue Springs).

“I most enjoyed working together with the Mid-Continent Public Library and LINC in order to increase participation and awareness of the bee,” Thompson said. “We had about the same number of participants as in previous years, and I would like to see that go up in the future.”

Map system tracks blight in KC

Mon, Mar. 19, 2012

By MIKE HENDRICKS - The Kansas City Star

Last year there were an estimated 12,000 vacant and abandoned houses in Kansas City. This year it may be up to 13,000.

“Bleak” was Councilman Scott Wagner’s one-word assessment of the situation during a Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City forum on Friday

Yet Wagner and others on the fed panel are hopeful that a new online mapping system will help local officials and neighborhood groups better address blight and other problems associated with the foreclosure crisis and decades of decline in the urban core.

“You will not find a system like this anywhere else in the country,” Wagner told the audience of about 100 at the Fed’s fourth annual Foreclosure Resource Development Roundtable.

For instance, the mapping system allows anyone to go online and find the areas of the city with the most vacant properties. On top of that, users can add layers of data: crime stats, dangerous building, code violations and much more.

The system has been up and running for some months, but it had its formal public unveiling Friday.

The system came together as a result of collaboration between Kansas City, Jackson County, the Kansas City Police Department and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, which has been compiling data on the city’s urban core neighborhoods for many years.



The foundation of the tool is the Quick Maps system that Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders proposed several years ago as an economic development aid. It remains a tool that businesses can use in making development decisions. Click on any parcel of property in the county and up pops data on taxes, traffic counts, zoning and census tracts.

“It’s pretty powerful from an economic development standpoint,” said county economic development director Robbie Makinen.

But it’s equally powerful for community development, which Makinen said goes hand in hand with his field.

For instance, crime data for an area matter whether you’re choosing locations for your business or where to focus neighborhood redevelopment efforts.

Wagner said local governments have only so much money to put toward addressing urban core problems. This provides City Hall with a tool to target efforts that will get the most bang for the buck.

And best of all, he said, the system was designed at no additional cost to city or county taxpayers.

Now the goal is to develop similar mapping capabilities for the city’s territory within Clay and Platte counties.

To use the system, go to www.jacksongov.org/econdev and click on “Quick Maps.”



**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
MARCH 19, 2012**

Good morning.

It is my pleasure and honor to fulfill today a duty assigned by the Kansas City Charter.

An honor that 53 men and one woman have performed in their role as Mayor of this great city.

During high times and low, wartime and peacetime, boom times and bust, the Mayors of Kansas City have taken a moment to talk with our residents about the City we all love.

This morning I would like to welcome each resident of Kansas City, my Mayor Pro-Tem, members of the City Council, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the Courts and the four counties Kansas City calls home.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank my longtime friend, and college buddy, Father Don Farnan, for joining us today and starting us off right.

He and I go back a long ways. Although we've added years, and a few extra pounds, to our friendship, I am so glad that our bond remains.

Ours is the type of friendship where the two of you may not speak for a few months but when you finally do, it's like no time has passed at all.

This morning, in particular, I would also like to take a moment to welcome my fellow Mayors from across the region.

More than ever, our success only happens if we work together. We are connected in both real and emotional ways.

Kansas City's success relies on our surrounding suburbs, and each of your cities are invested in maintaining the center city.

It is my honor to welcome my friends, and Mayors of the great cities of Grandview (Mayor Steve Dennis), Raytown (Mayor David Bower), Independence (Mayor Don Reimal), Blue Springs (Mayor Carson Ross).

You represent, just by virtue of your attendance here this morning, one of the primary themes of this speech.

Nearly a year ago today, I was elected to your ranks. And since that time I have attempted to build partnerships with each of you --- our friends and neighbors.

Thank you for honoring Kansas City with your presence here this morning. Thank you for your support of Kansas City, and thank you for your willingness to be our partner in our joint success.

My personal thanks to each of you.

And in case you thought I forgot, it is my privilege to welcome my friend, and the only other man who shares the honor of being a Mayor of Kansas City. Welcome Mayor Reardon.

In a time when cross-state rivalries grab headlines and dominate the hardwood, there is a larger and more important partnership that we have built together.

Two weeks ago, it was my privilege to attend Mayor Reardon's State of the Government address, where I heard and confirmed the exceptional oratory skills of my fellow Rockhurst graduate.

Joe and I have spent so much time together in the last year that we are considering a joint booking agent.

But the Joe and Sly partnership is real. It is a partnership that we want to expand to include all mayors who wish to be included.

We genuinely enjoy working with each other, and I think the attention we have given to one another and the needs of residents of both communities has been noticed by the broader regional community.

The only border war between Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas is on the basketball court and football fields.

We are partners for both practical and personal reasons.

A win for Kansas City is a win for Kansas City.

Thank you Mayor Reardon.

For as long as many can remember, this address has happened in City Hall.

Today, we gather outside of the hall, in another civic space...another public investment...another community asset.

This morning I have asked you to gather in a LEED certified ballroom at the Kansas City Convention Center, one of the largest and most energy efficient buildings in the nation.

There are many reasons I wanted to host this speech in this space.

First and foremost, it is a gorgeous place. Isn't it?

My thanks to Oscar McGaskey, Harvest Productions and the entire Kansas City team here at the Ballroom, you have been amazing to work with, and for anyone looking for a unique space for an event...call Oscar.

This room has a very clear advantage, it overlooks the new and spectacular Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

While the soaring shells of the Safdie design were paid for with private funds, they sit atop a garage --- many of us used today --- paid for by the people of Kansas City.

The roof of that garage creates a public park on the front lawn of the Kauffman Center. It is also a tribute to our city's commitment to environmental sustainability because it is the country's second largest green roof public park, second only to Millennium Park in Chicago.

That is good company to keep.

This location emphasizes the importance of partnerships.

The Kauffman Center compliments this space, the City's Grand Ballroom.

Our investment in the Arts District Garage was essential to the success of the project.

And now the Convention Center and this room benefit greatly from its proximity to one of the world's great new architectural and performing arts icons.

Partnerships pay dividends. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

1. Partnering to create a functional and productive Council

From day one, this Council and I have worked to create a new tone :

A respectful and forward looking attitude that understands that while we may disagree on issues, we should conduct the people's business respecting one another.

We know that we often represent competing interests, but it is a testament to each Council member that most of the legislation we have passed this year has been done with very little dissent.

That does not mean that we always start from the same place, but rather it is a testament to our relationship and commitment that we seek to find common ground, look for shared viewpoints, and most importantly hold the interests of the whole of Kansas City above more narrow competing interests.

I consider each of them my friend and partner. This City's continued success is largely based on our ability and willingness to work together.

I believe the citizens of Kansas City appreciate this spirit of cooperation...I know I do.

Please help me thank each Member of your City Council.

As you know, our government is comprised of three distinct, but interdependent parts: the Mayor, the Council, and City Manager.

Only when all three of those parts work collaboratively in partnership does our form of government work effectively.

I have already discussed my relationship with the City Council. Now let me address our joint partnership with our City Manager.

In our government, the Mayor and Council set policy. It then becomes the job of our City Manager to enact our policies in the day-to-day operations of the city.

I am pleased to report that our City Manager, Troy Schulte, has partnered with us since day one. In the coming days Troy will present to Council his pension reform plan.

He has committed to the Council's priorities and he worked extremely hard to keep this city financially sound, even while other cities cut 30% of their police force, abandon pension plans, and in some cases, go bankrupt.

We are charting a far more positive path.

We are proud to call Troy Schulte our partner.

2. Partnering with the Police Department for Crime reduction

It was my great honor last year to be part of the selection process that elevated Darryl Forte to be Kansas City's Chief of Police. The Chief and I have breakfast nearly every week. He has become a good friend and he is putting in place an attitude that will lead to less crime in Kansas City.

We are fortunate to have his leadership, and I am very honored to call him my friend.

Chief Forte and the brave men and women who daily wear the uniform of our police department are making a difference. Very specifically, in conjunction with our smart and aggressive Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker, and a new partnership with residents, our police are arresting criminals quickly, they are being tried, convicted and taken off the street.

It is becoming very clear, that in Kansas City if you commit a crime, you will do time.

Together, the Police Department and the city are working to deploy technology to keep citizens, police and visitors safer. We have built a partnership that WILL save and protect lives.

I would also like to take a moment to wish Officer Bradley Bailey a speedy recovery from the injuries he sustained last week when his patrol van was hit so hard that it rolled several times before coming to rest.

God was with Officer Bailey that day such that he is now able to be home with his family recovering from what could have been an even more serious event.

3. Partnering with the Fire Department to work on the budget

The proposed Kansas City budget issued a challenge to our Fire Department.

It was a challenge that clearly reflected our current budget difficulties, as well as the reality of funding staff positions through a tax that will soon expire.

In a few short years, the Public Safety sales tax that has allowed the City to construct, renovate, and rehab fire houses and purchase equipment will expire.

Currently we are funding salaried positions through that tax.

The citizens of Kansas City expect us to align our budget in a way that anticipates the loss of a dedicated tax funding stream.

I have lived in Kansas City long enough to know that we do not often spend much time planning for a tax to expire, but rather we concentrate on planning the campaign to renew the dedicated tax.

I am a Marine, and we used to call that “gun point” diplomacy.

That philosophy has created a jumbled mess of revenue streams for which we are constantly seeking voter approval for the dedicated purpose.

I understand the appeal in this — as a voter you know what you are getting when you vote “yes.”

But as we look to cut the Fire Department’s budget by 1.4% year over year, we should also understand the danger in tying people’s jobs directly to taxes with sunsets.

This is the same discussion with which we struggle as we deal with the new provision that requires renewal of the e-tax every five years.

As we study ways to adjust and solidify our diverse revenue streams, we need to learn from some of the mistakes that brought us to this point.

We also need to understand that these dedicated, diverse tax streams have, in effect, left the city, as a whole, with few options with which to address \$600 million of deferred maintenance and a 100 year old water supply system.

It would be intellectually dishonest to ignore the fact that the proposed reductions to the department budget are the subject of much discussion and strong sentiment.

It is easy, in situations such as this, to stake out positions on a complex issue based not on facts, but rather based on emotion or fear.

The basic facts are that we have had almost no growth at all in our general fund over the past few years, and unfortunately we don’t expect any in the next two.

Our personnel costs continue to rise while our income remains flat.

We have cut services and city staff to the bone.

We have budgeted only \$8 million for resurfacing 6000 miles of road during the next fiscal year while we continue to pay \$408,000 a square mile for fire protection.

No one on this Council, in my office, or in the City Manager’s Office is making the hard budgetary decisions we are compelled to make lightly.

We have not and will not forsake safety; however, we have a great deal of need across our city and little money with which to address those needs.

This is a period in which there must be fair, but shared, sacrifices by all.

Together, as partners, the City and Fire Department are looking for a solution that concentrates on saving the jobs of the professionals in the department that put their lives on the line daily, while recognizing that we can encourage retirements and adjust benefits to work toward the reality of our current budget situation.

I appreciate the willingness of Chief Dyer and the firefighters to talk through this difficult situation, and understand that the key to recognizing past mistakes is to not repeat them.

Chief Dyer and the Kansas City Fire Department provide extraordinary service to our community and for their dedication to our city they absolutely deserve our respect and thanks.

4. Partnering with the business community on a renewed positive emphasis on economic development

Early in my term as Mayor, we, as a City, declared that Kansas City was "Open for Business." Shortly thereafter we declared that we were "The City of Entrepreneurs." But we cannot just make declarations without actions.

Councilman Scott Taylor, Mayor Pro Tem Circo, Councilman Reed, and Councilman Wagner, of the Special Committee on Small Business, worked with businesses to make 67 specific suggestions to make it easier for small businesses to grow in Kansas City, Missouri.

I am proud of their tremendous effort but am even prouder that many of those 67 suggestions have already been enacted and many others are in process.

This is yet another example where the actions of your city and its leadership have walked the walk and not just talked the talk.

I am proud to work to get companies like Data Systems International (DSI) to locate downtown. The CEO of DSI told us that the primary reason for relocating downtown is the vibrant atmosphere that the talent they are recruiting demands.

This statement is increasingly common, as witnessed by the great increases in downtown residential living, and suggests that we are seeing a shift in a decades-long migration to more suburban settings.

Additionally, the General Services Administration recently announced the relocation of over 1,000 federal workers to downtown, in 2014, where they will lease existing office space, thereby reducing the office vacancy rate.

In the last year we have welcomed the addition of two new corporate headquarters,

AND four high tech and energy related companies to the crossroads district,

AND we retained two of our largest anchor employers locking them into long term leases.

In the process we have reclaimed and rectified the West Edge and Plaza situation, successfully retaining hundreds of Kansas City employees.

In short, our new approach is paying off, we are seeing results and we are striking a good balance. We can compete if we can partner with businesses. In each of these deals we have insured that the taxpayer is not on the hook for more than the deal is worth to them.

We will continue to listen to and partner with businesses to capitalize on our public investments and focus on a goal of reducing our city-wide office vacancy rate by 10% within the next three years.

We are very pleased that just last week, after an extensive search, we found our new President and CEO of the Kansas City Economic Development Corporation right here in our own backyard.

Pete Fullerton has devoted the last 22 years of his career to economic development in the northern part of our city.

We are excited to have him as we develop an aggressive and innovative approach to economic development that focuses not simply on buildings, but on people. Not on one side of the river or one side of Troost, but over the entire city in a way that moves us forward and builds on our prior success.

Welcome to the team, Pete

5. Partnering with our residents to transform revenue streams and improve services.

In three days, the election that bestowed upon me the tremendous honor and responsibility will be a full year old. To be honest, I am still a bit blown away by the confidence you showed in me by giving me your vote.

I am also extremely gratified that of the 70,382 people who voted in that election, they all say, to a person, they voted for me! Imagine that....

There is a renewed optimism in Kansas City. And I understand I may have been given a longer honeymoon than others, but why end a good thing?

Since taking office last May, I have done over 500 speaking engagements, averaging over two a day.

There is a hunger in this city to get moving and to hear from their Mayor that we are headed in the right direction.

What I have noticed with each of those audiences is there is a palpable desire to believe we can be great.

There is an eagerness to do something big together.

Our residents want straight talk, data-driven decision making and realistic plans.

To that end, as I promised, I have fully implemented KCStat. We have now examined our departments, I have lead questioning of our practices in public, and we are reporting, again, publicly, our progress and set-backs as we seek to improve our services.

Our residents deserve a city that makes decisions based on data, best practices and public dialog.

But they also want to live in a city that inspires and aspires.

My goal in this first year was to not squander the good will they have extended me.

Together we are building a partnership that respects one another.

We are a city that is on the verge, but we need to build trust with our residents that the money they send to City Hall will be spent efficiently and effectively.

Together we must find a way to balance the need to rebuild our infrastructure with the need to limit the tax burden on our residents.

In this endeavor, like everything we who hold office do, I have sought to build a partnership with residents.

As promised, I have reconstituted and appointed members to the Citizens Commission on Municipal Revenue to make recommendations on how best to balance our revenue streams.

I believe that together we can strike a balance that will take our city even higher.

We need partners, because we are a uniquely large city. We cannot do everything alone.

We are a city that relies on the diverse nature of our neighborhoods to attract new residents.

We are a city that provides all the amenities of one of the world's great metropolitan areas with a low cost of living.

Within our city limits you can find a studio apartment with a view of the river, or a home on an acre lot with its own pond.

Our size is one of our most important positive attributes.

But it also contributes to the challenges we face as a city.

Kansas City is:

- Eight times as large as San Francisco
- Has 6,600 lane miles of streets, all of which need to be plowed, maintained, and patched.
- Has 5,000 miles of water and sewer lines, most of which are 50-100 years old.
- We have as much infrastructure as Los Angeles, a city of eight million people.
- Kansas City has 1,460 people per square mile. Los Angeles has 8000.
- Same infrastructure, but 5.5 times fewer people to pay for it.

You do the math...

As daunting as some may find it, we must address these city-wide issues now or they will simply get worse. We must also address our need to grow our population base.

So how do we grow in a smart way? How do we become a truly smart city?

As a city we need to do two things that businesses understand but we often forget:

We need to keep customers happy and attract new residents.

If we can fix what we have, and then build our population base, we will lower the tax burden on all residents.

We are a beautiful city, whose backbone is public investments.

We have rebuilt our downtown into a city center we can all be proud of, but those improvements are not cheap.

We continue to pay debt service on our investments, but we made a value decision that investing in our center city was important, not just for us but for the surrounding communities whose proximity to our downtown enhance their futures as well.

75 years ago, civic leaders, holding the same positions we hold now, decided to put people back to work by investing public dollars in public amenities.

Amenities we are still using today.

City Hall turns 75 this spring.

The Jackson County Courthouse.

Municipal Auditorium, attached to this grand space, is a testament to the spirit and craftsmanship of our city.

This Convention Center, where we are holding this event.

The Sprint Center, host of the Big 12 Tournament...for many years to come.

The Power and Light District, flamboyant host to many of this weekends' St. Patrick's Day festivities.

We owe a great deal to the leadership of Mayor Kay Barnes, who saw what others could not and remade our downtown into a place that draws people in rather than running them away.

In the last decade we have added well over 10,000 residents to downtown.

Taxpayer investments in partnership with private investors are doing exactly what we hoped they would do...making downtown a place businesses and people want to call home again.

We are starting to see interest from businesses that want to connect to the energy of downtown. Public investments are enhancing private gain.

Companies that want to recruit young talent from around the country are telling me as they announce their moves to downtown that they are moving to be where the action is because our investments appeal to their young talent.

These businesses are moving into spaces built under the leadership of Mayors Berkley and Cleaver, overlooking a remade downtown spearheaded by Mayor Barnes.

We owe each of them our thanks.

But our renaissance is far from complete.

After billions in both public and private investments we still need to connect our assets.

One of our city's great assets is that we are spread out.

But for our downtown, spread out poses too many challenges.

Yesterday, we submitted a complete and comprehensive application to the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant program for a downtown streetcar.

We are asking the federal government to be a partner in this endeavor.

Councilman Johnson, with assistance from Councilman Glover and the entire Council, has worked his tail off to ensure the studies were completed, the ordinances were passed, the zoning was changed, the "i"s were dotted and "t"s crossed to ensure we made the deadline.

Congratulations, Councilman.

We are closer than we have ever been to having a modern streetcar in Kansas City.

I leave this evening for a meeting in Washington tomorrow with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to press our case face-to-face, joining me in Washington will be Jackson County Executive, Mike Sanders.

Together we'll present a united transit front to our friends in Washington.

Government, residents, businesses together will make this a reality.

And it will be an investment that will pay dividends for each sector.

Public investments, however, need to support public purposes.

We are often asked to support business expansions, abate taxes or provide incentives to grow businesses.

We have done that. With the downtown street car, we are asking the same businesses we have invested in for decades to invest in our project together.

We will work to make this a fair deal, but a rising tide, raises all boats.

Layering investments in strategic ways is the only way to maximize our investments.

Scattered approaches to reinvestment are not effective.

Rebuilding our core cannot come at the expense of maintaining our suburbs.

We need growth in both places to increase our municipal momentum.

But understand, property taxes are higher in the surrounding areas because of the depressed home values of our hollowed out core.

If we cannot repopulate our inner city, a disproportionate tax burden will continue to be placed on our growing suburbs.

Across the city, we need to invest in repairing our cities aging infrastructure:

- streets, curbs and sidewalks
- sewer and mechanical systems
- vacant lots and boarded up homes

Dollar for dollar, our public investments are leveraging private investments.

For every dollar invested in infrastructure, the multiplied economic impact in the jobs that are created is substantial.

We need both the improvements and the JOBS created by those improvements.

We are building partnerships and they are paying off.

A month ago, I joined with Congressman Cleaver and neighborhood leaders to announce a groundbreaking partnership with Make It Right.

Together, non-profit and private investors will leverage the infrastructure improvements we have made in the Green Impact Zone to take an abandoned, deteriorating school building and turn it into a jewel of the inner city.

Bancroft School will live again, and will be a LEED sustainable asset to the community.

You know what happens when people begin to believe in their neighborhoods again?

In the neighborhoods surrounding the new Bancroft School project, crime is down 23% over the last two years.

That is progress.

And that is why we are seeing private investment.

But we can go further and be smarter while we build these solid partnerships with neighborhoods throughout our city.

If we layer investments strategically, we increase their impact.

It is far more effective and less expensive to only tear up a street once.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the producers of the technology you are watching.

It is a story I want to duplicate over and over again.

Screampoint just opened an office and will soon begin hiring here in Kansas City.

They come to us from Silicon Valley, and represent some of the best and brightest, who have decided to make a bet on Kansas City.

They are MIT, Stanford, Harvard graduates with new and innovative products that combine geo-coding, data management and video gaming resolution...

We are exploring a partnership with them and their technology that will both help our city use data more efficiently and plan our infrastructure projects in a better way, but will also serve up apps that we can sell to other cities.

We are a proving ground, and our partnership may well produce revenue. They are entrepreneurs that have opened up shop in the City of Entrepreneurs.

What we are certain our partnership will do is save us dollars in efficiencies built on connected data, and making smart decisions.

Thank you to Paul Doherty, CEO of Screampoint, who returned from Shanghai where he has been doing work for Disney theme parks, to be here today.

It is perhaps fitting that the City where Mickey Mouse was born now will be home to a company charged with making Disney theme parks safe and even more attractive to visitors.

The Great Mouse may have been born here, but we are not a Mickey Mouse town. We are moving into the big leagues, and I think people are starting to see a very bright future for our city.

I certainly see one...and it is based on...

Partnerships.

I truly hope the partnerships we are building will be the vital and enduring legacy of this Administration.

As I think about the Bancroft School project in the Manheim Park Neighborhood I am reminded that our goal of revitalizing our core city neighborhoods six square blocks at a time depends on our most important partnership...the partnership between a City and its residents.

The State of our City is getting stronger because of the efforts of Kansas Citians who believe again in their City.

In reality, though, we still suffer from too many who, when confronted by change or a new idea, respond with, "We can't do that because..." rather than, "What if ?..."

Yet the upswing in confidence, despite our difficulties and insecurities, is noticeable.

I grew up not far from Bancroft School.

As I got out of the car after we pulled up to make that project announcement, two things struck me standing on 43rd at Tracy.

First, Congressman Cleaver was already up and out of his car, standing on the porch across the street from the school.

And women were fixing their hair, handing him their toddlers and calling their family to tell them who was on their porch.

His is a legacy of connection and compassion, and one I admire and aspire to.

But I will say I had one thing on the Congressman.

We made that announcement together on President's Day, and so there were kids playing in the street.

When my truck rolled up they gathered thinking someone important would be getting out when the doors with tinted windows opened.

If they were disappointed, they were very kind to hide it.

It was what one of the boys said that struck me that morning.

He looked at me and said, "Mayor James you grew up in a neighborhood just like ours didn't you?"

I was happy to say, "Yes I did."

Now, I don't have much power, except for that which is given in part by sheer will of personality.

What I do have, is the ability to tell that young man, in the middle of 43rd street — just prior to the announcement that will transform his neighborhood — that, yes I did in fact grow up in a neighborhood not far from his.

I knew his street. I had ridden bikes in front of Bancroft as a kid.

Some of my friends had gone to elementary school there.

This job is often distant and impersonal...but in that moment, standing in Manheim Park, a young 8-year old boy, eager to be part of the action, was able to name the books he had read recently.

It was as if he knew how I felt about getting our children to read at grade level.

Sometimes this job can be very personal.

Sometimes this job needs to be personal.

TURN THE PAGE INITIATIVE

My mother is here this morning.

And my wife Licia and our children.

My daughter-in-law and my only grandchild are here as well.

Looking at them from this podium, during a day in which I am honored to deliver the State of the City, I am reminded of all the hours spent by mothers everywhere teaching children the fundamentals of being good people...

...of our fundamental belief that we can see better days ahead in the eyes of our children.

Over the last year, I have, perhaps unwisely waded into the issues facing the Kansas City School District.

Trust me; I did not do it for my own good.

But there are 17,000 kids who we all are responsible for in that school district alone.

Their futures and this city's health are intertwined.

Regardless of where you live, regardless of what side of the state line, regardless of if you have children or not, our future is tied to the abilities of our children.

While the State of Missouri continues to wrestle with the future of the Kansas City School District, you may have believed we have gone silent.

You would be wrong.

Last fall, I asked Judy Heeter to convene a committee of civic and community leaders across the city to develop a proposal to ensure that every child in Kansas City reads at a third grade level by third grade.

This is my most important economic development initiative.

Last Monday, we submitted Kansas City's application to the National League of City's All-American City program, who have partnered with the Annie E Casey Foundation to promote grade level reading.

We intend on not only being the first city to have won the All-American City's competition 6 times, more importantly, we intend on building a program that is the envy of the nation.

I may not be in charge of much as Mayor, but I absolutely can rally the community around this singular goal.

It is time to Turn the Page Kansas City.

In the coming months, I want everyone in our community, both sides of the state line, both sides of the river and both sides of Troost to commit to this essential program.

Already more than 50 of our City's leading organizations have lent their support, and more residents every day are signing up to lend a hand.

Over the next three years of the project, we have committed to 750,000 volunteer hours to accomplish our goal of preparing every child to read by third grade.

Three-quarters of a million volunteer hours in pursuit of our most important community and economic development goal.

If you cannot read you cannot succeed. Children in Kansas City will read, and read well.

More than a city of Fountains, or Entrepreneurs I want Kansas City to be known as a city of Readers...because that is how we will find success in the future.

So...what have you been up to this year?

We have been focused on making Kansas City part of the national conversation again.

Our people are amazing, talented and committed.

Our city is beautiful.

As an added bonus of my election, just as a perk to Kansas Citians, I have managed to keep it from snowing all winter.

(Let's face it...I would have gotten blamed if we were buried under snow --- I might as well take credit for the weather if I'm going to be blamed for it.)

A year ago, I told the people of Kansas City I would focus on Enforcement, Employment, Efficiency and Education.

We have focused on each of these. We have kept our promise.

We still have a long way to go.

But, even the most skeptical resident can feel a shift in approach, attitude and atmosphere.

Frommers has named Kansas City one of its top destinations of 2012.

We are the only American City on that list.

Forbes has named our downtown as one of the top 10 in the nation.

We have been named one of America's best places to start a business.

The *Wall Street Journal* has named us as one of 7 American Innovation Centers.

The *New York Times* writes so appropriately about our new Performing Arts Center:

The *Times* writer said, "I've never seen a performing-arts space that seems to relish its location so much, to be so proud of the city it shows off."

Indeed it does.

Oh, and did I mention we are hosting the All Star Game this summer?

Ladies and Gentlemen, Kansas City is a city on the rise.

My ask, of each of you --- as we begin year two --- is that you join me.

We can disagree about policies and positions, but we are all tied together to the success of Kansas City.

Even the most cynical among us wants to see their neighbors' children succeed.

We are a city, finding our voice again and together we are calling for a new day.

My friends, it is my honor to be your partner.

It is my honor to be your Mayor.

Thank you for your support and dedication to this city we all love.

Welcome to the new Kansas City.

Thank you!



Volunteer Training & Certification for Medicare Counselors

CLAIM is seeking volunteers to provide Medicare counseling for local seniors and people with disabilities. Volunteers will be trained and certified through CLAIM, Missouri's State Health Insurance Assistance Program. CLAIM provides free, unbiased information to help Medicare beneficiaries make informed decisions about their health care insurance options.

Orientation (Required)

May 3, 2012

9:00 am

(First day of Initial Training)

Initial Training

May 3, 4, 10 & 11, 2012

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location

Westport Cooperative Services
Central Presbyterian Church
3501 Campbell
Kansas City, MO 64109

Pre-registration required for training.

Contact Derek Sims, CLAIM Administrative Assistant, at dsims@primaris.org or 1-800-390-3330 ext. 140 to register. Information available at www.missouriclaim.org.



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