



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 26, 2021

Governor Michael L. Parson
Missouri State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Honorable Michael L. Parson, Governor:

As Northland members of the Missouri House of Representatives, we each represent a portion of Kansas City. It was with great dismay that we witnessed the Mayor and City Council of Kansas City move against the uniformed law enforcement officers of the Kansas City Police Department by slashing \$42 million of the police budget and transferring it into a community service fund, promising to restore the cuts if the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners transfer accountability to the City Council instead of the statutorily empowered Board. These actions were taken with no public input and with only a few hours of review.

Last year, Kansas City saw record bloodshed with 178 homicides. 2021 has continued that terrible record with 58 homicides year-to-date. Meanwhile, the Police Department has been hammered by retirements, a hiring freeze, and no funding for a police academy class in over a year and currently has 116 vacant positions. The department received an additional \$11 million cut last fall and the manpower shortage is affecting the department's ability to complete its mission. This further cut to the department's budget is both dangerous and reckless.

The greatest irony is that Mayor Lucas, who spent all spring telling those of us in the Missouri General Assembly that Kansas City had moved past the Pendergast-era and that it was time to restore local control of the police department to the city, has only proven that the Pendergast-era is still in full swing with this unprecedented power grab in an attempt to circumvent current statutes.

Kansas City is a city in crisis. This move only pushes a city we love and represent closer to the brink of disaster. As a State, we must move to protect our citizens in the state's largest city and restore the statutory intent of the General Assembly. In light of the rapidly developing situation, we ask that you call a special session of the legislature to address this dangerous action.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Hurlbert", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Josh Hurlbert
District 12

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Pouche", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Sean Pouche
District 13

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Chris Brown
District 16

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Richey", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Doug Richey
District 38