



The Commissioner

The newsletter of the Kansas City
Metropolitan Crime Commission

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MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



When Leon M. Harden, Jr. first became a member of the Crime Commission he was the Regional Vice President of Public Safety at Southwestern Bell. Since his duties there included working and coordinating with law enforcement, fire and EMT agencies he saw the Crime Commission as a perfect fit for his knowledge and experience.

“The Crime Commission allowed me the benefit of working with people that exhibited pride, effort and a true belief in making our community a better place for all of our citizens,” he said. “I have a passion to stay active in the community.”

Harden, a former NFL player, has scored a touchdown with our organization with his enthusiasm, dedication and support. He has been very active especially with the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (SAFE) and Second Chance.

After retiring from SBC in 2002 he started his own company, Harden Consulting, LLC, a public safety consulting company. As such, he is still quite professionally active in many aspects that parallel closely to the mission of the Crime Commission.

He donates of his time to South Suburban Basketball, a youth sports program in the Hickman Mills School District of south Kansas City. He also is a member of the National Number Association which supports 9-1-1 agencies and personnel nationwide.

As a graduate of the University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP), he is also active with the university’s alumni association and the UTEP Black Alumni Network. One of his fondest memories of UTEP however, was meeting his wife, Andrea. They now have two children, a son and a daughter.

His college football career led to being drafted by the Green Bay Packers as a defensive back. His biggest thrill was to play with some of the all-time great Packers of the 1960’s. Later he spent a short time with the San Diego Chargers and later played in the World Football League.

He likes to spend free time now playing golf with family and friends.

“I have found that the number of people in the community that know of our organization and acknowledge the need for it has been enlightening,” he said. “I am very proud to be just one small part of it and look forward to continuing that relationship for a long time to come.”

We thank Leon for his valuable assistance and support for all our programs. He may not be active on the gridiron anymore, but he is most certainly an All Star in our book!



CRIME DOESN'T PAY BUT CRIME STOPPERS DOES!

This past quarter has been a very busy and successful one for our Crime Stoppers program. In everything from fundraising to school crime, our coordinator, KCPD Detective Kevin Boehm, has reported good news.

For nearly five years Detective Boehm has been working with a consortium of northland schools in developing an anonymous text tip system wherein students could report not only crimes in schools, but such issues as bullying as well. Under the direction of Sergeant Steve Taylor of the Clay County Sheriff's Office, several schools implemented a texting program and initially ran it under their own auspices. Then the program caught on with more and more schools and the volume of texts rose to a level that made the schools decide to officially merge with our Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline's anonymous texting service. On August 27th the partnership was announced to the media and the community. The press conference was reported on by *The Kansas City Star*, KMBC-TV9, Fox4 News, KSHB41 and other media outlets.

Now the program includes the Middle Schools of Antioch, Congress, Eastgate, Lakeview, Maple Park, New Mark, Northgate, Plaza Middle, Liberty, Heritage, Discovery and South Valley as well as the following High Schools: North KC, North Platte, Oak Park, Park Hill, Park Hill South, Smithville, Staley, Winnetonka, Liberty, Liberty North, Liberty Academy and Kearney, the Orrick Public School System and Platte County schools and several other schools, Independence Public Schools, Excelsior Springs School District and the West Platte Public Schools, have expressed interest in joining.

"Besides helping keep our school safer, we feel this is a good way to help young people become more aware of Crime Stoppers and what it does. That way they will feel more secure in using the hotline in the future and may someday lead to some of them helping to support our program as well," Boehm said.

On Monday, August 11th, our annual Crime Stoppers/Bill Grigsby Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the beautiful Oakwood Country Club in south Kansas City. More than thirty teams of business people teamed with law enforcement officers enjoyed a day of good fun and beautiful weather. The event grossed over \$77,000 and saw a profit of about \$57,000 to help fund our well-known crime fighting program. Additionally,

this year's tournament included two raffles of firearms. Those raffles brought in netted about \$4,000 for Crime Stoppers. Much thanks to board Vice President Darren Griffith for coordinating this successful effort.

Major sponsors for the event included presenting sponsor American Century Investments, and Jazz Restaurant, QuikTrip, Ferrellgas, Hallmark, Pepsi, Kansas City Royals, Hi Tech Industrial Services and Kansas City Life.

In other exciting fundraising news, we reported last year that Ferrellgas had designated one of their "bobtail" gas delivery trucks as a Crime Stoppers donation vehicle in memory of board member Boyd McGathey's daughter, Amber, a crime victim. As such, the truck was painted in Crime Stoppers colors and bore the program's logo.



Ferrellgas "Amber" Crime Stoppers Bobtail

The company has several trucks designated to aide various charitable causes. Each truck earns its charity one cent from each gallon of propane it delivers. The Crime Stoppers truck delivered a total of over 880,000 gallons of gas this past year earning our program a donation of \$8,824.64. We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to Ferrellgas and hope that Boyd sees this as a fitting honor in Amber's name.

For the second year in a row, the Copaken Brooks property management company, under the coordination of Joni Cross Zakovich, has put on a fundraiser at their own expense to support Crime Stoppers. On Friday, September 5th, they held a Red Friday party in a "pocket park" on 12th Street in Downtown Kansas City during the

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day. The event included raffles for Chiefs items, vendors providing food and drink and other activities. About 2,000 employees of Copaken and Brooks buildings attended with all proceeds going to Crime Stoppers in honor of Joni’s father-in-law, Ray Zakovich and his years of dedication to our program. The event raised \$3,787. Thanks Joni and Copaken Brooks!



“Red Friday” Fundraiser – Downtown KCMO

Crime Stoppers ads began appearing on Kansas City buses during the past quarter, helping to advertise our program. This is one part of a program being developed by several board members, led by Gregg Reiss, and Kevin Boehm to improve the marketing and awareness of our program.

One of our two largest fundraising events is coming up on November 1st. The annual Crime Stoppers/Chiefs Ambassadors Arrowhead Event is an evening of great live music, an open bar, dancing, terrific food from several of KC’s top restaurants in a “Taste of Kansas City” type setting, games and a live auction.

The auction this year features such items as a limited edition litho of Hall of Famers Joe Montana and Marcus Allen, a big screen TV, vacations and baskets donated by area law enforcement agencies that are generally loaded with merchandise and gift cards from merchants in their cities.

This event is normally consider the most fun of all of our events and attracts many repeat attendees each year.

Many of the “Old Guard” Kansas City Chiefs attend. Chiefs Cheerleaders are also on hand for photos and to sign posters or calendars. Tables and sponsorships for this event are filling up fast so to be part of this, either as a sponsor, or to buy a table or tickets, contact Jamie Hallam at 816-960-6800 today!

CRIME STOPPERS GOLF -2014



Kevin Boehm takes aim at the putting contest.



TV 9’s Kris Ketz gets ready for his round.



Players enjoy the day – we hope!!!!



SAFE FILLS NEED IN OFFICER'S MURDER

On September 7th, Corporal Jason Harwood of the Topeka, Kansas Police Department was shot and killed while on a traffic stop on duty. The suspect, a convicted felon, later turned himself in to police. This senseless act of violence took the life of a 15 year veteran who left behind a wife and two young sons, ages nine and eleven. Sadly, he was the twelfth public safety officer killed in the line of duty since our Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (SAFE) program began in October of 2003 and the third Topeka officer to be killed in the line of duty in the last twenty-one months.



Topeka P.D. Corporal Jason Harwood

Two days after the murder, SAFE board member Leon Harden and SAFE Executive Director, Sonny Wilson, met with Corporal Harwood's family and representatives of the Topeka Police Department to extend deepest sympathies and to present a check for \$15,000 for the family to use for immediate expenses to help in their time of grief and need.

During this past quarter, from July through September, our program has benefitted from three events to help raise funds for these kinds of tragedies. These three events garnered over \$2,000 for the SAFE fund.

On September 20th the annual Jeff Taylor run was held in Riverside, Missouri. Jeff was a Riverside Public Safety Officer who was killed by a lightning strike in Joplin, Missouri while on duty helping in the wake of that city's deadly tornado in May of 2011.



Riverside Officer Jeff Taylor

Kansas City, Kansas Police and the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office will sponsor a 5k run dubbed the "Dotte Trot Run" on September 27th and Jake's Place Bar and Grill in Shawnee hosted a golf tournament to raise funds for SAFE.

Coming up soon, on October 5th the John Glaser Run, in memory of the fallen Shawnee firefighter, will be held and on November 8, 2014, the annual Guns 'N Hoses Police vs. Firefighters Boxing Event will be held at the Grand Ballroom of Bartle Hall in Kansas City.

For more information or to order tickets please go to www.survivingspouseandfamily.org or call Jamie Hallam or Sonny Wilson at 816-960-6800.



Shawnee, Kansas
Firefighter, John
Glaser



MCSP UPDATE

By Barry Mayer

While MCSP staff is busy coordinating court ordered community service with our many worksite partners, we have taken the time each summer to partner with the Blue Hills Neighborhood Association, Blue Hills Community Services, KCPD community policing officers at Metro Patrol, Parks and Recreation, Greater KC LISC and others to offer a summer youth program in the Blue Hills Neighborhood. With funding support from LISC, MCSP Case Worker Glenda Russell coordinates the program at the Blue Hills Neighborhood Association house at 5309 Woodland. The program serves over 25 youth ages 8 to 15 years old with opportunities to learn the value of serving their community while addressing other needs the youth have to become good students and citizens. They also have an opportunity to be rewarded for their hard work through field trips.

As part of their community service and relationship building activities the students met weekly with representatives from Blue Hills Neighborhood Association to serve as the Blue Hills Neighborhood Youth Council. With guest speakers like Councilman Michael Brooks, neighborhood CAN officers, neighborhood business owners, and others, the students learned their roles and responsibilities as part of the neighborhood and larger community.



Students in the program learn about how to deal with issues in their neighborhood.

Students identified planned and carried out activities to help make and keep the community healthy like: neighborhood cleanups, picking up trash in the park, and building a Little Free Library. Also included in the Youth Council activities were:

Harvesters' volunteers- Boxing bread and bagels help students to see and understand the importance of giving back to the community. Students had to organize and develop a production line to get bread, buns and bagels boxed labeled, stacked, and prepared for distribution.

Distributing flyers for Community Events: Allowed students the opportunity to engage local neighbors and communicate with other neighborhood residents regarding family/ community centered activities.

Along with the aforementioned activities, our approach to addressing these issues involved weekly discussions regarding current events, social issues, music, and media on a national as well as local level. These discussions were meant to help broaden the students' perspectives and improve problem solving skills. Students were also allowed one on one time with the Youth Coordinator to discuss matters most important to them. During this time they were encouraged to look for positive ways to address concerns and find resolutions for their individual issues. To help them become more responsible, along with caring for the plants they chose, students had to clean the kitchen and work area daily. They had to sweep, vacuum, wipe tables and counters and empty trash and recycle bins.

We met our overall goals and outcomes by exceeding our goal of twenty-five when we enrolled thirty-two youths, with twenty-five active and an average daily attendance of fifteen. The youth were engaged daily in structured and enriching activities as well as supervised independent activities. The youth were consistently encouraged to take a proactive role in developing a positive outlook on their lives and the actions they can take to improve their quality of life. As a result, the program was instrumental in meeting the needs of the

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Blue Hills neighborhood youth and addressing the concerns of Blue Hills residents. We are grateful for the opportunity that was afforded us and we look forward serving Blue Hills neighborhood in the future.



Youths in the Blue Hills program were rewarded with a swimming outing for their hard work.

MCSP - Celebrating 20 years of Serving the Community

SAVE THE DATE!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Kansas City Crime Commission Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon. This event will be held on Thursday, October 16th at 11:30 at the Marriott Muehlbach Hotel at 12th and Wyandotte in downtown Kansas City. This luncheon sees the awarding of several prestigious annual honors.

The Ius W. Davis Award, named for the late KCMO mayor and Crime Commission member, goes to a company or business person that has shown great and sustained support of law enforcement and law enforcement related issues. The Clarence M. Kelly award, honoring the former KCMO police chief and FBI Director, cites the accomplishments each year of an outstanding metro

area sworn law enforcement administrator. The Crime Stoppers Officer of the Year Award names an area law enforcement officer who has shown outstanding skills in investigative work or in solving crime related problems in his/her jurisdiction. The William H. Dunn, Sr. Award goes to an individual who has shown dedication and service to the effort of reentry issues facing incarcerated inmates and their return to their communities. The Alvin Brooks Award is given to an individual who though his/her activism in their community has shown outstanding work in creating positive interaction between law enforcement and the citizens it serves.

Please call Jamie Hallam at 816-960-6800 for information.

KCMW HITS 400 ARRESTS!

Our *Kansas City's Most Wanted* newspaper hit a milestone in September with the 400th arrest from tips by readers. Two more arrests of area fugitives shown in KCMW have occurred since then. These numbers represent the total since the newspaper's inception in June, 2007.

The total arrests and the agencies that wanted those fugitives follow in alphabetical order:

- Cass County Sheriff - 3
- Clay County Sheriff - 17
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, KC office – 5
- Independence Police - 29
- Jackson County Sheriff - 6
- Johnson County, Ks Sheriff - 34
- Kansas City, MO Police - 119
- Kansas Dept. of Corrections - 58
- Lafayette County, MO Sheriff - 2
- Lee's Summit Police - 6
- Missouri Probation & Parole - 13
- Platte County Sheriff - 10
- U.S. Marshals Service - 39
- U.S. Postal Inspectors - 1
- Wyandotte County Sheriff/Kansas City, KS Police - 60





SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM NEWS

By Ron L. Smith, Program Director

Second Chance is a prisoner re-entry program of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission which works to make an impact on public safety by addressing the problem of “high risk offender” recidivism; repeating criminal behavior and returning to custody. On average, nearly 4,000 persons are released from prison annually and attempt to reintegrate into the Metropolitan Area and about half find themselves re-incarcerated within 3 years. However, “high risk offenders” may often have an eighty percent probability of reoffending unless they receive structured interventions. Second Chance specializes in assisting those “high risk” clients who are most likely to have significant problems with their transition from prison. To date, Second Chance has witnessed an encouraging program failure rate of less than twenty percent for that population after the first year of post-release from prison.

Since 2010, the Second Chance has been working cooperatively with State Probation & Parole, local law enforcement, and a Reentry Coalition of over a hundred non-profit and community based organizations addressing the risk levels and needs of ex-offenders. Second Chance coordinated the Coalition and was instrumental in its reorganization as the new Greater Kansas City Reentry Network/Team. The GKC Reentry Network seeks to promote critical evidence based practices (empirically proven programming that works) for persons recently released from prison and on state supervision. The goal is to “help without hurting” by fostering a successful plan for transition back into the community and workforce for ex-offenders. More specifically, the GKC Reentry Network seeks to insure that strategies are individualized to specific client’s risk and need factors to avoid or significantly reduce the risk of reoffending.

Due to their role as community leaders, Second Chance and the KC Reentry Coalition received the

“2014 Spirit Award for Lifelines to Healing” from the KC chapter of Communities Creating Opportunities at their Gala in April. U.S. Representative Emanuel Clever II was a co-recipient. Also, Second Chance KC recently received special recognition and an award at the 2014 National Conference of NACOLE (National Association of Citizens Oversight of Law Enforcement). I was glad to personally accept the awards on behalf of the entire Kansas City reentry team for their enthusiastic hard work in changing lives and creating safer and healthier communities in the Kansas City Area.

Second Chance is appreciative for the enormous support of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission, and especially our Second Chance Advisory Board, both of which have made the continuing work of Second Chance possible. Together we’re making a difference and are immensely grateful.



Second Chance staff, from left, Josh Aquino, Brittany Peterson, Ron Smith and Adkin Vobach.