



The Commissioner

The newsletter of the Kansas City
Metropolitan Crime Commission

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A LETTER FROM CRIME COMMISSION CHAIR, W. Terrence Kilroy



Dear Supporter of the Crime Commission:

What an honor to serve as Chair of the Crime Commission with its tradition of great leadership for our community! I hope to adequately fill the shoes of so many outstanding leaders who preceded me. In particular, I want to thank Mike Beal for his outstanding job as Chair, making my assumption of this position so much easier.

All our programs are functioning at levels of which we can be proud. Our Crime Stoppers TIPS (and Text) Hotline remains a national model after thirty years. Our Community Service (MCSP) continues to enforce community service sentences allowing the clean-up of millions of pounds of trash. Where would the credibility of community service sentencing be without MCSP?

SAFE continues to support families of fallen officers, firefighters, paramedics and EMTs in our region-- and we had too many deaths in 2014-- but SAFE was there to help each of those families in time of need. Our Second Chance Program is barely five years old-- but what a difference we are making in reducing the number of high risk offenders from returning to prison. We are truly changing lives with our Second Chance efforts!

My hope in 2015 is that you will continue to support these programs. They need your time and financial support to continue at such high levels. Our programs deserve your generous support.

Our Executive Committee is also committed to continue the Commission's tradition of leadership in support of honest and effective law enforcement--and to be a voice for continued progress. We believe our best days are yet to come.

W. Terrence Kilroy
Board Chair

(NOTE: Mr. Kilroy has been a Crime Commission member for over 16 years and was named Chair last December. He is a labor and employment lawyer with the Polsinelli Law Firm and has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America* from 2007 to 2015. He is active in numerous civic and professional organizations in addition to the Crime Commission.)



Reentry: A Second Chance to Make a First Impression

By Ron Smith, Program Director

The majority of offenders are “coming to a neighborhood near you.” According to the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 95 to 97 percent of the U.S. prison population will be released from custody at some point. Annually, over 650,000 former inmates are released from our state and federal prisons into society. There are nearly 4,000 returning each year from Kansas, Missouri, and federal facilities who are seeking to re-integrate into the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. A critical problem facing these “returning citizens” is gaining access to meaningful and stable employment. Studies show that the unemployment rate of formerly incarcerated people after one year may be as high as 60% because of multiple barriers to employment. Moreover, without appropriate interventions and community support about 50% of released prisoners will return to prison within three years of release. The costs in human capital and taxpayers’ dollars is enormous and the trend is unsustainable.

We’re extremely pleased and proud that our SC Resource Specialists Brittany Peterson and Addie Vobach have been accepted into a select group. Both are attending the 2015 Certification Class of Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce. This will permit Addie and Britt to further enhance their existing professional skills and offer expanded employment services to our reentry clients. The training will be ongoing for several months.

Second Chance has consistently offered an effective solution for reducing recidivism, unemployment, and homelessness by a supportive and “no nonsense” approach to encouraging our clients to make sustainable changes and positive contributions to society. Our SC Resource Team have a specialized caseload of medium to “high risk” clients who are often “fresh out” and without an adequate plan. They are in need of immediate relief from poverty, and require intensive attention to reducing their criminogenic liabilities and chances of returning to prison.

During calendar year 2014, SC enrolled 260 “high risk” clients who received intense and individualized case management. Also, over 500 persons attended “Welcome Back” and Job club sessions, receiving direct access to community resources and job readiness guidance. Last year, 72% of SC clients obtained either PTE or FTE positions while enrolled in the program. SC clients who are stabilized with employment and housing after one year have a return to custody (“recidivism”) rate of less than 20%.

Finally, Second Chance offers congratulations to Mr. Brent Morris on his promotion to Regional Administrator of the Western District, Division of Probation & Parole, of the Missouri Department of Corrections. Mr. Morris is a seasoned and vastly experienced corrections professional, with a solid reputation for innovative leadership, fairness, and being a “straight-shooter.” Welcome aboard, Mr. Morris!



Addie Vobach conducts a Job Club session.



Mr. Brent Morris



MCSP RECEIVES GOOD NEWS, GRANT

By Barry Mayer, KCMCC Vice-President

MCSP finished celebrating its 20th year as Crime Commission program in December in rare form. The program provided over 62,000 hours of cost free labor to the community equaling over 1.24 million dollars. We also received a LISC grant to provide an after-school program in Blue Hills. About 15 youth are taking advantage of it and Glenda Bell, our MCSP Caseworker/youth coordinator reports that all of the children have improved their grades this semester. Glenda is getting tutoring assistance for the youth from interns from UMKC and Rockhurst University. Keep up the good work Glenda!

The project is scheduled to conclude at the end of March and also features litter abatement assistance from the Adopt Prospect workers on Saturday afternoons for the Blue Hills neighborhood. We predicted the workers would have time to collect about 10,000 lbs. of litter and debris during the grant period but they look well on their way to doubling that amount. Special thanks to MCSP Board member, Leigh Blumenthal, for helping establish Blue Hills Community Services as a worksite to facilitate the project. We'd also like to thank MCSP board member Peter Greig for his assistance in funding magnetic Adopt Prospect signs for the worksite

supervisor's vehicle. This is helping to market MCSP in the community as we serve 17 neighborhoods with the project. It also helps our clients expeditiously find the supervisor on work days when they see the signs on Mr. Johnson's truck and trailer.

More good news came in February. Jackson County COMBAT has awarded the Crime Commission the Adopt Prospect Job Club funding for 2015. We will be able to continue to assist indigent MCSP clients by sponsoring their MCSP and the Second Chance Job Club client fees. Clients who sign up for Adopt Prospect who are unemployed have an opportunity to work off their hours at Adopt Prospect and attend the Second Chance Program's Job Club for employment assistance. We look forward to reporting to you in future newsletters about the success of the clients' experience.

Thanks to all of our worksites who provided positive, pro-social work experiences for MCSP clients in 2014. As we've started the New Year 2015 promises to be successful too. A final thanks to MCSP worksite supervisor, Jimmy Johnson. Adopt Prospect litter totals more than doubled in 2014 with over 30 tons of litter/debris collected along the corridor from Independence Avenue to 85th Street.



MCSP clients cleaning up the Prospect corridor.



A good day's MCSP work product.



SAFE IS THERE IN TIME OF NEED

Calendar year 2015 has started off on a sad note with the loss of 2 Public Safety Officers to line of duty deaths.

On January 2, 2015, Battalion Chief Christopher Tindall, 42, South Metro Fire Department, suffered chest pains several hours after responding to an emergency incident, went to the hospital where he was treated and released and died several hours later after being released from the hospital. Among his many roles, he was also a handler for the Missouri Search and Rescue K9.



Battalion Chief Christopher Tindall and Below with his K-9 rescue partner.



On January 20, 2015, Traffic Motor Officer Michael Kern, Olathe, Kansas Police Department, experienced an excessively stressful day while preparing for an upcoming motorcade assignment on January 21, 2015, for the President of the United States. While performing additional vehicle maintenance for his motorcycle, he suffered a heart attack and died in the performance of his duties.

Both widows were presented with \$15,000 checks as prescribed in our by-laws for Line of Duty Deaths as determined by the Officer's respective departments.

Despite some additional unexpected expenses, the SAFE program ended the fiscal year (2-28-2015) with a net profit thus increasing the overall fund balance.

SAFE's Annual Meeting was held on March 18, 2015, at Kaufman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals. Some 40 members and guests were in attendance and were presented an overview of the past fiscal year for the SAFE program. Topics covered were line of duty deaths, financial matters, new Board members and updates regarding fundraisers. In addition, upcoming fundraisers were also discussed. After the meeting those wishing to do, were treated to a "behind the scenes" tour of the stadium.

Future events include a pizza business fundraiser on May 14, 2015, in Leawood and the 11th Annual Larry Stewart / SAFE Memorial Golf Classic on May 18, 2015, at Lakewood Oaks Golf Club in Lee's Summit.



Olathe Police Officer
Michael, Kern



CRIME STOPPERS SEES BUSY QUARTER

By now most of our readers are familiar with the Text-A-Tip program which Crime stoppers Coordinator detective Kevin Boehm has helped set up in schools and school districts throughout the metropolitan area. This initiative, started among several northland schools has grown since its inception and show every sign of continuing to expand.

The program allows students to anonymously submit tips about crimes in their schools including, but not limited to drugs, assaults, thefts, bullying and any other incident impacting the safety and security of students as they go through their school day. The tips are received in our Crime Stoppers office then forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency or school administrator.

To date a total of 29 area schools have enrolled in the program. Detective Boehm has also had a preliminary visit with security official from the Kansas City, Missouri School District and has scheduled a meeting with the Lee's Summit School District as well.

This program is already showing results in solving or stopping negative activities on school campuses. If you are interested in having Kevin meet with the school in your neighborhood, contact him at kboehm@kc-crime.org.

The 20th Annual Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast was held January 30th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Kansas City. KSHB – NBC41 anchor Jadiann Thompson was the emcee. The event was attended by more than 160 guests from law enforcement and the media. The breakfast honors those law enforcement agencies or officers who worked most closely with out TIPS program in the prior year and media that have gone above and beyond in support and cooperation with our program.

In keeping with the spirit of working with students in our community, the breakfast saw the awarding of scholarships to the winners of the annual Crime Stoppers/Metropolitan Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Essay Contest. Each year there are two winners, one each from Missouri and Kansas and each receives a \$1,000 scholarship to the college or trade school of their choice. The contest is open to all area high school seniors.

This year's winners were Zachary Kelsay from Blue Springs South High School who will be attending KU and Virginia Riddle from Mill Valley High who will be going to Oklahoma State. Congratulations to both of these deserving young people.



Essay winners Virginia Riddle, above, and Zachary Kelsay, below, receive their prizes from Todd Harrison and North Kansas City Police Chief, Steve Beamer.



Crime Stoppers President, Todd Harrison, presented certificates to area law enforcement agencies.



(Crime Stoppers – continued from Page 5)

Plans are in the works to make the breakfast one of our three signature fundraising events beginning next year. A committee chaired by Crime Stoppers board member Steve Cox is busy making plans so be sure to watch for announcements in the near future.

Detective Boehm and several board members were on hand at a press conference on January 15th to officially unveil the new Crime Stoppers vehicle, a new GMC Terrain provided by Randy Reed Buick GMC. The presser was held at the dealership in KC, north. Besides the generosity of Mr. Reed and his staff, thanks were also

given to Brian Henry at Lamar Outdoor for creating the Crime Stoppers logo and to Atronic Alarms and the Kansas City chapter of the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) for funding sponsorships for the vehicle and to Todd Pearson at DMP Productions for the car's graphics.

August 10th will be the date for the 2015 edition of our Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament at Oakwood Country Club. Contact Jamie Hallam at the Commission office at 816-960-6800 for information.



The new Crime Stoppers vehicle was unveiled at a press conference in January at Randy Reed Buick GMC.

Mr. Randy Reed, president of Randy Reed Buick GMC, now named Reed Buick GMC, as his sons have joined the business, made possible the donated lease of the new Crime Stoppers GMC Terrain.

