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THE NORTHEAST NEWS

YOUR NORTHEAST NEWS TEAM

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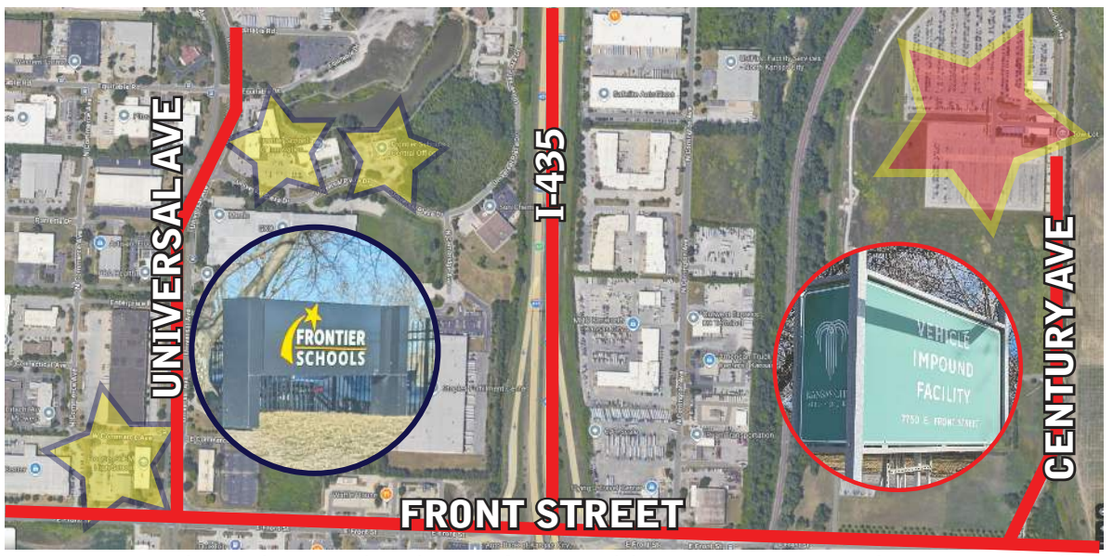
City Moves Detention Center Site Without Public Input, Drawing Concern From Council and Neighbors



Map showing the proposed new location of a municipal detention center. City Councilman Crispin Rea and many Northeast residents have expressed concerns about the site's proximity to nearby charter schools.

Bryan Stalder
Contributor

Kansas City officials voted last week (Thursday , January 15) to relocate the site of a long-planned municipal detention center — a project approved by voters just nine months ago — without public notice, committee hearings, or community engagement, prompting criticism from several City Council members and concern from residents and businesses near the newly selected location on Front Street.

The City Council approved an ordinance Thursday removing the detention center from its originally proposed site near Interstate 70 and Highway 40 and relocating it to 7750 E. Front Street, just east of Frontier Schools, where the city is already constructing a temporary modular jail. This ordinance was not listed on the pre-published agenda, and council members waived standard procedures that typically include committee review and public testimony.

Fourth District At-Large Councilman Crispin Rea was one of three council members who voted against the measure.

"With very little transparency, the Mayor pushed an ordinance to move the municipal detention center site from I-70 and 40 Hwy — a location overwhelmingly supported by voters last April — to Front Street," Rea wrote in a Facebook post following the vote. "There was zero community engagement, we bypassed the ordinary council process of committee hearings and public testimony, and made the decision without completed analysis proving that it's a lower cost site."

On April 8, 2025, Kansas City voters approved the renewal of the Public Safety and Property Sales Tax, extending the ¼-cent sales tax for another 20 years. The ballot language specifically included funding for police, emergency services, and the construction and operation of a new municipal detention and rehabilitation center.

The measure passed overwhelmingly and was widely presented to voters as a plan to construct a permanent detention facility near I-70 and Highway 40. City materials and public discussions at the time emphasized that location as the long-term solution for Kansas City's detention needs.

Kansas City has not operated its own municipal jail since 2009, when the Municipal Correctional Institute — known as "The Farm" near the Truman Sports Complex — closed. Since 2015, the city has relied on Jackson County's Detention Center for short-term holding and has transported detainees as far as Vernon County, nearly 100 miles away.

City officials have long cited the lack of a local detention facility as both a public safety issue and a financial burden.

In October 2025, the city announced plans to construct a temporary modular detention facility on Front Street near the city's tow lot, describing it as a short-term solution until the permanent jail near Highway 40 could be completed.

Councilman Rea said, "For me, there's a major difference between the smaller 3-5 years facility and the larger 30 years facility."

This "smaller 3-5 years facility," the modular jail — estimated to cost between $15.9 million and $19.2 million and provide up to 130 beds — is now under construction. At the time, city leaders described the site as temporary and emphasized the urgency of addressing a citywide bed shortage ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

Thursday's vote effectively makes the Front Street site permanent.

Mayor Quinton Lucas and City Manager Mario Vasquez said the Highway 40 site proved too expensive to develop and that relocating the project to Front Street could save more than $25 million due to existing site control and prior remediation work.

Continued on page 11

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 21 - Homework Club at PH Coffee, 2200 Lexington Ave, from 4 p.m.to 5 p.m. followed by Teen Club from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 21- Teen Study Lounge, 4:30 to 6 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Come utilize the library's teen area computers to research or study and create in the studio. For middle and high school students.

Thursday, Jan. 22- Art Club, 6 to 7 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Come draw, color, paint and glue to create a unique piece of art. For ages 5 to 12, free.

Friday, Jan. 23- PH Coffee Neighbor Nights happen every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 6 to 10 p.m. at 2200 Lexington Ave. Designed to bring Northeast neighbors together to connect, eat, and learn from one another, each event features a Northeast restaurant, extended happy hour deals, and time to meet, dine, and enjoy a short presentation. All are welcome from across the metro. Visit https://www.ph.coffee/neighbornight for more info.

Saturday, Jan. 24- Dinosaurs: Land of Fire and Ice Interactive Exhibit, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Crown Center Shops, 2450 Grand Blvd. Step back into the Cretaceous period when dinosaurs last roamed the earth. Children can uncover fossils, explore a boggy swamp and oozing volcano and climb through an icy terrain in this special exhibit to promote scientific thinking and learning. Free during regular shopping hours, First Level. Open daily through Sunday, May 10. Visit www.crowncenter.com for more information.

Crews Fell Historic Tree on January 16

Photo by Dorri Partain

Dorri Partain
Managing Editor

Amid an afternoon of swirling snowflakes mixed with sawdust, crews with Alpha & Omega Complete Tree Care made the final cut that brought Frank the Liberty Tree to the ground on Friday, January 16.

Crystal Beasley, tenant at 328 S. Monroe Avenue, stated in a media release that Frank was laid to rest at 5:38 pm. Beasley has taken on the role of media spokesperson for Frank and the property owners, Thomas Harris and Jessica Thomas, who learned about this tree's history after purchasing the property where Frank grew in August 2025.

According to a certificate from 1976, a burr oak the owners have lovingly named "Frank" was named a Liberty Tree during the American Bicentennial. Then believed to be more than 200 years old, this tree survived another 50 years before developing a root fungus that made it dangerous for the homeowners and surrounding properties.

"Frank stood for 250 years without asking to be remembered," stated Beasley, "The community chose to remember him for centuries of shade, legacy and protection."

Removal crews will continue work to cut and remove trunk sections and the property will remain an active work site. The owners have asked that visitors stay off the property and not attempt to remove any portions of wood from the site, which will be assessed for reuse by professionals.

For information about products that may be created from Frank's wood and other updates, the owners have created a webpage at www.frankthelibertytree.com

Illustration by Bryan Stalder

A single snowflake drifted down
On a bleak, cold winter's day,

A bird on branch noticed,
And searched the sky for more.

Alas, the snowflake sighed,
I am alone and lost,
The wind blew me astray.

In a colder climate
I would live for months
But today I shall melt
Away.

Vacant Parade Park Complex Secured to Prevent Arson Fires

Dorri Partain
Managing Editor

A multiple-block housing complex that is awaiting demolition and reconstruction has been the site for numerous arson fires as tenants were relocated and buildings have been vacated.

Parade Park Homes, an historic Black-owned housing cooperative, spans a 27 acre area bounded by Truman Road, Woodland Avenue, 18th Street and Brooklyn Ave, east of the Historic Jazz District.

Demolition of the 45 buildings in the complex have been delayed due to requirements from the funding entities and a mandatory review by HUD (Housing and Urban Development). This clearance period prohibits demolition or any site disruption to maintain procured funding for new construction.

Following an arson fire in the 1500 block of Euclid Avenue on December 30, project partners Twelfth Street Heritage and Flaherty & Collins Properties added additional security measures to secure the property from entry. Those measures include increased security patrols and solar-powered mobile security trailers recording activity at entry points.

The Kansas City Fire Department (KCFD) has reported responding to the Parade Park complex to battle blazes in the 1800 block of E. 15th Terrace on Nov. 7 and the 2100 block of E. 16th street on Nov. 3. An apartment unit at 1501 Woodland has burned twice in the last six months, in June and December 2025.

Despite enhanced security, a blaze was reported in the 2100 block of E. 15th Terrace at 2:44 am on January 15.

Michael Hopkins, KCFD Public Information and Media Relations officer, spoke about the issues of battling vacant building fires during a presentation at the Northeast Chamber of Commerce office on February 26, stating that firefighters have additional challenges when responding to these structure fires. Boards have to be removed while the fire continues to grow — doubling in as little as 60 to 90 seconds — and crews may also have to enter to search to ensure the property is vacant.

Following demolition, which may begin in February 2026, construction on Phase 1 will begin.

This development will contain a total of two hundred (200) efficiency, one, two, and three-bedroom residential units for families in three three-story residential buildings, with retail units available at street level.

Total development cost for Phase 1 is approximately $68,022,166 with an expected $2,400,000 of this funding coming from the Missouri Housing Development Commission's Federal HOME Program Funds.

Redevelopment of Parade Park is designed as a mixed-income neighborhood with 1,100 affordable homes, including apartments, townhomes and accessible units for seniors built in up to four phases. This $300 million redevelopment involves funding through the city, state and federal housing sources.

For more information about redevelopment of this site visit www.paradeparkkcmo.com.

Photo by Dorri Partain

Food Not Bombs Arrests Renew Longstanding Debate Over Food Sharing on Independence Avenue

Bryan Stalder
Contributor

Food Not Bombs Arrests Renew Longstanding Debate Over Food Sharing on Independence Avenue

An incident at Independence Avenue and Monroe on Sunday, Jan. 4 has renewed a long-running and often contentious debate in Kansas City over food sharing, private property rights, and public safety.

That afternoon, members of Food Not Bombs Kansas City (FNBKC) were distributing free vegan meals and groceries from the parking lot at 3700 block of Independence Ave. when Kansas City police arrested two organizers, identified as "Michael" and "Wolfgang." These arrests, which stemmed from alleged trespassing violations, drew significant attention after video footage circulated on social media and The Pitch published a detailed account of the incident.

The parking lot where the meals were distributed is privately owned. Businesses including Family Dollar, Frutopia and Buy The Pound Thrift lease space in the building and contribute to the maintenance of the lot.

Food Not Bombs has operated weekly meal services at or near this location for more than a decade, sharing food with community members without charge. Social media posts show the group advertising free meals at the former Apple Market site as early as 2015, and organizers say the location became a focal point after the grocery store closed, leaving a gap in food access along the corridor.

However, the group's presence has also been a source of frustration for nearby businesses and neighborhood stakeholders for years.

Food Not Bombs is an international, volunteer-led organization that describes its work as both mutual aid and protest. In addition to feeding people, the group is deeply involved in social justice organizing, protests and demonstrations. Organizers have historically resisted permitting processes and formal oversight, framing their work as a form of direct action rather than charity.

In Kansas City, that approach has repeatedly put the group at odds with property owners, health officials and city authorities.

According to city officials and neighborhood stakeholders, Food Not Bombs does not obtain permits, carry insurance, or secure permission from property owners before setting up food distribution sites. Concerns have also been raised over food handling and storage practices, as well as the volume of trash left behind after weekly meal services.

Independence Avenue Community Improvement District (CID) Urban Street Ambassadors and nearby property owners have regularly been tasked with cleaning up food containers, clothing donations and other debris following these events, according to multiple sources familiar with the corridor.

The issue is compounded by broader challenges at the Independence and Monroe intersection, which has seen a noticeable increase in loitering, open drug use, fights and litter in recent years. Business owners in the area say the concentration of activity has strained already limited resources and affected customers and employees.

According to an online report from The Pitch, police were dispatched to the scene after complaints from surrounding businesses and residents. Officers told Food Not Bombs organizers they were trespassing and ordered them to leave the property. Video posted by the group shows one organizer repeatedly asking whether moving to the public sidewalk would resolve the issue, while officers stated that blocking the sidewalk was also not permitted.

Two organizers were arrested. The remaining volunteers relocated to a nearby spot and continued distributing food following the incident.

Kansas City Police Department later stated that officers had previously responded to complaints at the site and that the individuals arrested had been asked to leave. Food Not Bombs disputes that characterization, saying the organizers had not previously trespassed and were willing to relocate.

A Buy The Pound Thrift manager, who works in the building, said Food Not Bombs' setup interfered with customer access and business operations. She attended a Safety & Security meeting held at the Northeast Chamber of Commerce office on Thursday, Jan. 15 and stated that organizers told her employees and customers were "in the way" of where they planned to distribute food. Northeast News is seeking additional comment from her and other tenants in the building.

The controversy echoes debates that surfaced more than a decade ago. In 2014, Kansas City City Council considered a proposed "food sharing ordinance" that would have required organizations distributing free food to use inspected kitchens, provide trash receptacles and comply with basic health and safety standards. The ordinance was intended to protect public health and reduce litter, but opponents argued it would discourage volunteer-led food distribution.

After weeks of public debate and protests, the ordinance failed on a 6–6 vote.

Around the same time, the Kansas City Health Department made headlines for halting some unpermitted food-sharing events, including incidents where bleach was poured on food deemed unsafe to prevent consumption — a practice that drew sharp criticism despite being rooted in food safety enforcement.

Continued on page 11

Legal Considerations when Buying or Selling a Business

Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes, Esq., Contributor

Over the last few months, I've helped several SEED Law clients either buy into a business or exit a business. It can be an exciting (and stressful!) time for all parties and there are often a lot of details to manage. My role as legal counsel is to help support risk analysis and mitigation through due diligence and clear documentation. When preparing for these types of business transactions, there are a few key legal considerations that can help to make the process more streamlined.

Buying a Business

If you are purchasing an existing business or membership interest, it is important to take time to understand the extent of the entity, including strategies, obligations and company culture. Legal considerations for those buying a business include:

- Conducting due diligence regarding business foundations, financials, relationships, and reputation.
- Understanding how technology impacts the business, including any systems integral to the company's operations
- Having well organized payment terms and a clear promissory note for the business purchase
- Limiting liability through indemnification for actions prior to purchase
- Requesting ongoing support from the exiting owner to help transfer warranties, accounts, and other business knowledge
- Outlining exclusions for business contracts or assets not included in the sale
- Highlighting any nonnegotiables or early termination provisions

Working through these considerations with your professional team can help support the long term success of the entity after the purchase.

Selling a Business

When a client decides they want to sell their business, most businesses need to be cleaned up, just a house would need to be spruced up when preparing for owner transitions. We encourage clients to:

- Review business governing documents for processes, such as operating agreements or any existing buy/sell agreements
- Update and organize customer and vendor contracts for relational continuity
- Have clear and understandable historical financials for comparison
- Work to manage business debt and eliminate loans to/from the owners or managers
- Have an updated business strategic plan that outlines the business history, identity and goodwill, as well as strategies for growth in place now.
- Make sure key processes, roles, and responsibilities are documented.
- Obtain the support and any prior approvals needed from stakeholders, other business partners, landlords, franchisors, and lenders.

Finally, if you're in business now and you haven't developed a strategy around your exit or succession plan, January is a great time to start. There are business strategies and legal solutions that can be implemented now to help build value and support a smooth transition. Consider a few succession planning hypotheticals to help you get started:

Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes, Esq.

- What are your goals and what would an ideal exit look like for you?
- What would happen to your business if you decided to close the doors today?
- Who would be interested in purchasing your business and why? How can you build relationship with them today?
- What strategies have been effective in building revenue? How can those efforts be scaled or shared?
- What would you need to do to create and communicate business value if you wanted to sell in five years?
- What happens to the business if you experience 10 years of health decline, starting now?

Implementing these legal considerations can help existing and aspiring owners be better prepared when buying or selling a business. This article is an overview of legal considerations and it does not cover every legal right or obligation, consideration, exception, or restriction. The documentation and decisions involved are complex, and should be well researched and discussed with a team of professional before being made.

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Thanks for reading!

My name is Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes and I'm an entrepreneur and attorney based here in Kansas City. My law firm, SEED Law, has been partnering with business owners across the Northeast and the city for over 10 years. I loved living in the Northeast and I was fortunate to serve as an Entrepreneur in Residence for the Kauffman Foundation in 2017. Together with a dedicated group of Northeast residents and leaders, we explored a community designed innovation district pilot program. I was able to present this work during a TEDxUMKC Talk on Community Innovation Design in 2020.

Over the next few weeks, I'll be contributing articles and resources on small business and estate planning legal considerations. If you have questions, please reach out directly at adrienne@seed.legal.

EXPLORE • DISCOV

Pho Bowl — A Neighborhood Favorite for Vie

Nestled on the western edge of Independence Avenue's culinary corridor at 1447 Independence Blvd, Pho Bowl has become a go-to destination for lovers of authentic Vietnamese cuisine. Known for its rich pho broth, fresh ingredients, generous portions and friendly service, Pho Bowl offers a warm and satisfying dining experience that keeps locals coming back again and again.

While the space has long been home to Vietnamese eateries (including past restaurants like Pho Hoa and iPho Tower), Pho Bowl has carved out its own identity with a menu full of classics — from steaming bowls of *pho dac biet* and *bun bo hue* to *spring rolls, banh mi, grilled pork* and other favorites that reflect traditional Vietnamese flavors.

Customers regularly praise Pho Bowl for its balanced, flavorful broth, fresh garnishes like basil and bean sprouts, and the thoughtful presentation of each dish. Many visitors note the welcoming atmosphere and attentive staff, making it a comfortable place for both quick lunches and relaxed dinners.

This information is provided for you through the Independence Avenue CID (Community Improvement District) the Northeast Kansas City Chamber Of C

VER • EXPERIENCE

tnamese Comfort Food

Pho Bowl's role in the community was on display during neighborhood events like the NortheastKansas City Chamber of Commerce's Taste and Tour, where their offerings — including pho and nem nuong spring rolls — were highlighted as crowd-pleasing favorites.

Whether you're seeking a warming bowl of noodles on a cool day or a flavorful lunch with friends, Pho Bowl has earned its reputation as a hidden gem in the Northeast — a place where traditional Vietnamese cooking and local hospitality come together in a familiar but ever-evolving community staple.

FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY CALL

Last week's Independence Avenue Community Improvement District 4-Corners Community Call was at Taqueria Mix-T-Co located at 3616 Independence Ave.

JOIN US THIS FRIDAY AT 3PM FOR OUR 4 CORNERS COMMUNITY CALL
Acapulco Comida Mexicana, 6225 Winner Rd.

Commerce, and the Northeast News

For more information, visit www.nekcchamber.com

Building Wealth Through Real Estate: Choosing the Right Investment for Your Goals

Gary Goebel, Certified Property Manager

Real estate has long been viewed as a stable and reliable form of investment, often compared to commodities such as gold and silver. Like those assets, real estate shares several important characteristics that help give it long-term value.

First, real estate is a scarce resource. Land cannot be replicated, manufactured, or grown, making it inherently limited. Second, it is transferable, meaning ownership can be bought, sold, or passed on. Third, real estate can be quantified—professional appraisers can determine a property's value based on established standards. Most importantly, real estate can be mortgaged, giving it a clear monetary description and allowing owners to leverage its value.

For those interested in expanding their investment portfolio to include real estate, it is wise to begin with a type of property or investment structure that feels familiar. Investing simply because others have reported success in a particular segment can be risky. Instead, potential investors should seek opportunities that align with their personal financial goals, risk tolerance, and level of involvement.

There are eight main categories of real estate investment: single-family houses, multifamily properties, office buildings, retail spaces, industrial properties, mixed-use developments, land, and hotels or motels. With the exception of owning a single-family home or small rental property, most of these categories require a high level of financial sophistication and professional guidance.

More complex real estate investments require expenses and rents to be calculated annually or on a per-square-foot basis. These investments may also involve legal opinions, tax planning, and accounting decisions. Common ownership structures include Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), partnerships, limited liability companies (LLCs), corporations, S-corporations, and limited partnerships.

One advantage of these ownership structures is that they may help shield individuals from certain types of physical or financial liability. However, it is important to note that very few investment structures eliminate all personal liability or financial obligation.

Owning real estate can be a demanding business that requires significant liquidity. Ongoing and unexpected expenses are common and can include replacing roofs, upgrading electrical systems, maintaining structural integrity, paying legal fees, carrying insurance, providing security, and covering management costs. Investors must carefully consider these potential expenses and ensure they have sufficient cash reserves to handle them.

Beyond financial resources, investors must also consider their time and commitment. While returns can be attractive, owning real estate often means dealing with tenant concerns, vacancies, repairs, and regulatory requirements. Despite these challenges, real estate remains one of the most widely recognized and time-tested ways to build long-term wealth.

REITs are one of the simplest ways for individuals to gain access to real estate investing. A Real Estate Investment Trust is a company that owns, operates, or finances income-producing real estate. REITs allow investors to participate in large-scale property portfolios—such as apartment complexes, shopping centers, or warehouses—and earn dividends, similar to investing in a mutual fund.

This more passive, hands-off approach appeals to many investors because it does not involve day-to-day property management. While REIT returns may be lower than those from directly owned real estate, an investor's risk is often limited to the amount initially invested.

REIT managers typically diversify their holdings by investing in different property types and geographic locations, which can reduce overall risk. By comparison, a small LLC or partnership may generate higher short-term returns but may also face greater downside risk if problems such as vacancies, natural disasters, or market shifts occur.

Many real estate investors choose to specialize, focusing on specific property types—such as medical offices, warehouses, or manufacturing facilities—or on particular geographic markets. This specialization can save time and reduce risk, as the investor develops a deeper understanding of local property values and market trends.

One of the primary drawbacks of real estate investing is liquidity. While REIT shares can generally be sold more easily than physical property, selling early may result in financial penalties or unfavorable tax consequences. Still, many investors prefer this option over owning a large property, such as an office building, which can be difficult and time-consuming to sell.

Illustration by Bryan Stalder

Real estate investing is a long-term commitment that requires careful planning, patience, and a clear understanding of risk. Before taking the next step, investors should evaluate their financial objectives, available resources, and tolerance for uncertainty. With thoughtful preparation, real estate can play a valuable role in a diversified investment strategy.

Detention Center

Continued from page 3

"In this site, we have site control, site remediation, and site preparation costs that are less than what we see at the 40 Highway site," Lucas said during council debate.

Rea said cost considerations alone should not override public process or commitments made to voters.

"There is a high school nearby, businesses, and neighborhoods that were not consulted," he wrote. "It very well could be a great location. However, process and transparency should still matter."

In actuality, Frontier Schools has three buildings nearby serving Pre K-12th Grade. Northeast News reached out to Frontier Schools for comment.

Ugur Demircan, Superintendent of Frontier Schools, stated in an emailed response, "Our schools serve approximately 1,300 students in the Front Street area. We are currently seeking additional information to better understand the proposed project and its potential impact. We look forward to ongoing communication with city officials to ensure that the needs of our students, families, and staff are fully considered."

As the council meeting concluded, several council members reported receiving messages from residents who said they were blindsided by the decision.

The Front Street site sits near Northeast neighborhoods and the former location of the Park Place Hotel, which the city demolished in 2018 after years of abandonment, fires, and safety concerns. At the time, city officials described the demolition as a long-awaited step toward revitalization of the corridor.

Now, some neighbors say they are again being left out of decisions about the future of the area.

Rea emphasized that he supports completing the detention center but remains concerned about how the decision was made.

"I truly hope it does not impact the timeline because the project needs to get done," he wrote. "And I'll do what I can to keep it moving. But accountability matters — especially when voters overwhelmingly supported the original plan."

City officials have indicated that construction timelines will not change, and the Front Street site will now serve as both the temporary and permanent detention facility.

Residents with questions or concerns can contact their City Council representatives or attend upcoming council sessions. For contact information and council session calendars, visit wwwkcmo.gov

Food Not Bombs

Continued from page 6

Supporters of Food Not Bombs argue the organization fills a critical gap for people experiencing food insecurity, particularly in an area with limited grocery options. Gringo Loco, a grocery store, operates roughly two blocks east of the site, but access remains a challenge for many residents relying on public transportation or limited mobility.

Critics counter that good intentions do not override property rights, health standards or the cumulative impact on a corridor already struggling with disorder and trash.

Despite the arrests, Food Not Bombs has continued weekly meal distribution near Independence and Monroe, adjusting its setup while organizers say they assess next steps.

As Northeast continues to grapple with homelessness, food insecurity and public safety concerns, the Jan. 4 incident underscores a larger unresolved question: how the city can balance grassroots aid efforts with accountability, neighborhood stability and respect for the people who live and work along Independence Avenue.

MARR AND COMPANY, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

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Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center Member
Government Audit Quality Center Member

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

GORDON PARKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND EXPENSES – MODIFIED CASH BASIS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT, REVENUE & OTHER INCOME:			
Contributions and donations	$ 991,275	$ 0	$ 991,275
State aid receipts	2,165,017	0	2,165,017
Federal grants and contracts	322,308	0	322,308
Sales tax (Proposition C)	220,760	0	220,760
Interest income	10,006	0	10,006
Other income	7,554	0	7,554
Total Support, Revenue & Other Income	3,716,920	0	3,716,920
EXPENSES:			
Program services	2,395,232	0	2,395,232
Supporting activities:			
General and administrative	1,128,773	0	1,128,773
Fundraising	173,887	0	173,887
Total Supporting activities	1,302,660	0	1,302,660
Total Expenses	3,697,892	0	3,697,892
Net assets released from restrictions	2,516	(2,516)	0
Change in Net Assets	21,544	(2,516)	19,028
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	2,155,204	2,516	2,157,720
Net Assets, End of Year	$ 2,176,748	$ 0	$ 2,176,748

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 29, 2025, on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Marr and Company

Marr and Company, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

Kansas City, Missouri
December 29, 2025

State of Grace and Reckoning

Historical fiction written by Betsy Cochran

March 20, 1924
Kansas City, MO

When Frank Pulliam crashed into my mother Marjorie's life, chaos followed close behind. What began as disruption became a chain reaction, spreading outward and stealing the oxygen from everything it touched, like an uncontained wildfire. My mother spent her life moving through the flames. She stamped out what she could, tended what she couldn't, and rushed toward the hot embers no one else would touch.

But long before Frank, my mother had already learned how to survive.

At just fourteen, she showed up on Delores Pulliam's doorstep, Frank's older sister. It was the dead of winter. She was half-frozen and nearly gone. Her own family had abandoned her, and in a fierce moment of determination, she decided that would not be the end of her story. Delores took her in. She fed her, warmed her, and taught her to read better than anyone ever had before. She offered discipline, structure, and something close to safety. And for a short time, that was enough.

But there was always Frank.

Delores's younger brother moved through the house like a storm. He was smart. He could hunt and trap better than anyone in their small Kentucky holler. He was a carpenter, trained by his father's hands before him, capable of building things meant to last: rocking chairs, cedar chests, dining tables, bedsteads sturdy enough to hold whole families.

He made beautiful things. But when the moonshine came around, he became another man entirely. And the moonshine always came around.

Delores eventually left Marjorie with Frank in that small Kentucky shack for the convent in Covington, carrying with her a private resolve. It was unspoken, unwritten, and fixed. She would keep watch over the children tied to Frank's name. Neither distance nor the veil released her from that duty. She carried it with her when she took the vows that made her Sister Dominica.

My mother wanted nothing to do with Sister Dominica's charity. Letters mostly went unopened, tossed aside, though never so far that her curious daughters didn't find them. Curious daughters who never dared speak a word of the things they knew.

So when Frank Pulliam appeared on the front stoop of the apartment building at 1010 Park Avenue, on the first day of spring in Kansas City, inclined to crash in and out once again, he did not find Marjorie. She was ill and worn thin and had gone to live with her daughter, Peggy, who was older, practical, and in no position to care for children while tending to a sick mother.

Dorothy, Nadine, and Regina Pulliam, circa 1924. Intake photograph, St. Joseph Orphan Home for Girls.

My sister, Marie, and her new husband, Charlie, had taken in the three little girls: Dorothy, eight; Regina, three; and me, the baby, only two. It was the early years of the Depression. Charity was stretched thin. Wages were unreliable.

One night, my sister Catherine, only fourteen, came home with a gash across her face so deep it would mark her for the rest of her life. She had slipped while carrying a heavy pressing iron in the garment district, the edge of it striking her forehead. She lost a great deal of blood before anyone thought to fetch a rag.

It wasn't long after that, she disappeared from the house. She left without ceremony or goodbyes.

No, on this crisp Kansas City morning, Frank found something different.

For once, he did not arrive in the midst of chaos. He arrived to find its aftermath. And in a rare moment of clarity, he saw what stood before him for what it was. This was not misfortune, but the sum of his own making. The moment did not last long. But it lasted long enough for him to write to his sister Delores, Sister Dominica.

When she arrived, Sister Dominica saw the truth Marie had been quietly carrying. Marie was with child herself and already pressed beyond what any girl ought to bear. It did not take long to understand the situation. Too many mouths. Too little money.

Sister Dominica made the decision.

Continued on next page

State of Grace and Reckoning

Continued from previous page

Dorothy, Regina, and I would be turned over to the care of the Catholic Church. St. Joseph Orphan Home for Girls. We would be fed. We would be clothed. We would be housed and schooled and kept until such a time as our family could stand on its feet again. Or, until we were old enough to stand on our own.

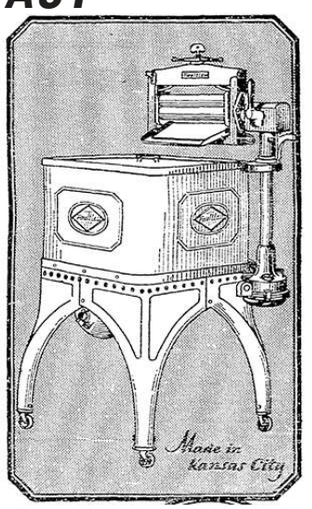
It was not spoken of as mercy. It was spoken of as necessity. Not a penance, but a reckoning, all the same.

Marie wept the day she took us to the orphanage. I did not yet understand why.

I did not yet understand that some heartbreaks are completely necessary.

Nadine's Northeast follows the life of Nadine Burnett (née Pulliam), who was born in 1921 and spent most of her life in Northeast Kansas City, where she raised ten children amid the city's rapid changes in the 20th century. Written by her granddaughter, Betsy Cochran, these historical fiction stories draw from Nadine's lived experiences, local history, and a little family lore. Each installment stands alone while weaving into a larger portrait of Nadine's past. For a deeper dive, visit betsycochran.substack.com, where you can subscribe for free or choose a paid plan for extended content.

1932 FUN FACT



To keep 450 men employed during the worst of winter, a local manufacturer offered its top-of-line electric washing machine for half-price in January 1932. Vulcan Manufacturing Company, 2006 Wyandotte Avenue, re-hired 150 employees to build the Faultless "Model K" electric washer with gas heating attachment, a $110.00 value, for $59.95 and no profit to the company. The additional 300 jobs saved through this promotion were at factories that supplied the necessary parts. Merchants, such as Mace-Ryer at 1120 Grand, sold these machines on narrow profit margin and offered free demonstrations.

MARR AND COMPANY, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

AICPA
Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center Member
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

EWING MARION KAUFFMAN SCHOOL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – BY FUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Totals
REVENUE:				
Local	$ 6,682,826	$ 548,902	$ 0	$ 7,231,728
State	8,412,236	6,185,696	0	14,597,932
Federal	2,333,499	0	0	2,333,499
Total Revenue	17,428,561	6,734,598	0	24,163,159
EXPENDITURES:				
Instruction	3,111,612	5,936,789	0	9,048,401
Support services - Students	1,487,347	17,874	0	1,505,221
Support services - Instructional Staff	551,608	230,127	0	781,735
Support services - General Administration	4,501,448	119,447	0	4,620,895
Support services - Building Level Admin	1,289,707	430,361	0	1,720,068
Support services - Central Office	421,468	0	0	421,468
Business Support Services	2,286	0	0	2,286
Business Support - Fiscal Services	428,886	0	0	428,886
Operation and Maintenance Plant Services	3,384,821	0	0	3,384,821
Student Transportation	2,219,453	0	0	2,219,453
Food Services	843,644	0	0	843,644
Community Services	12,208	0	0	12,208
Building improvements	0	0	352,589	352,589
Total Expenditures	18,254,488	6,734,598	352,589	25,341,675
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
Transfers in (out)	(352,589)	0	352,589	0
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(352,589)	0	352,589	0
Net Changes in Fund Balance	(1,178,516)	0	0	(1,178,516)
Fund Balance - June 30, 2024	16,916,113	0	0	16,916,113
Fund Balance - June 30, 2025	$ 15,737,597	$ 0	$ 0	$ 15,737,597
Net changes in fund balance				$ (1,178,516)
Changes in:				
Capital assets - purchases (EMKS)				352,589
Capital assets - depreciation (EMKS)				(238,276)
Change in net assets on the Consolidating Statement of Activities (EMKS)				$ (1,064,203)

Note: The supplementary financial statement above has been provided for purposes of reporting to the State of Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This statement conforms to the presentation of the Annual Secretary of the Board Report ("ASBR").

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Ewing Marion Kauffman School, Inc. ("EMKS") and Subsidiary ("BKT") (collectively, the Organization), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of June 30, 2025, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ewing Marion Kauffman School, Inc. and Subsidiary as of June 30, 2025, and changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Organization and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Marr and Company

Marr and Company, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

Kansas City, Missouri
December 16, 2025

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602 Notices

OUR NEXT issues will be published February 4 and 18, 2026. Ad deadlines are noon Friday the week before the next publish date.

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We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer, get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-273-9002

Haiku ***by Sam Crowley***

A coin on the floor
It's not worth picking up
It's my new hobby

AFIA
ACADEMY FOR INTEGRATED ARTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Academy for Integrated Arts (AFIA) is accepting proposals for contracting out the Food Service Program with a Fixed Price contract for the 2026-2027 school year. The optional pre-proposal meeting will be on February 4, 2026 at 3:00PM. Request for Proposals are due by March 13, 2026 at 10:00AM. For questions and bid specifications, please contact AFIA at 816-444-1720. Academy for Integrated Arts reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Hogan Preparatory Academy, Inc.
Kansas City, Missouri

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion
We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Hogan Preparatory Academy, Inc. (the "Academy") (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of assets, liabilities, and net assets-modified cash basis as of June 30, 2025, and the related statements of support, revenue, and expenses-modified cash basis and functional expenses-modified cash basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities, and net assets of Hogan Preparatory Academy, Inc. as of June 30, 2025, and its support, revenue, and expenses for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Academy and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis of Accounting
We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 2, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We have examined management of Hogan Preparatory Academy, Inc. (the "Academy") assertion that the Academy complied with the requirements of Missouri laws and regulations regarding accurate disclosure of the Academy's records of average daily attendance and average daily transportation of pupils, and other statutory requirements as listed in the Schedule of Selected Statistics for the year ended June 30, 2025. The Academy's management is responsible for its assertion. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertion based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about management's assertion. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of management's assertion, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Academy's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, management's assertion that Hogan Preparatory Academy, Inc. complied with the aforementioned requirements included in the Schedule of Selected Statistics for the year ended June 30, 2025, is fairly stated, in all material respects.

Marr and Company

Marr and Company, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

Kansas City, Missouri
December 15, 2025

HOGAN PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – MODIFIED CASH BASIS – BY FUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Totals
RECEIPTS:				
Local	$ 2,251,472	$ 443,701	$ 0	$ 2,695,173
State	7,452,460	4,716,308	0	12,168,768
Federal	2,408,206	0	0	2,408,206
Total Receipts	12,112,138	5,160,009	0	17,272,147
DISBURSEMENTS:				
Instruction	3,705,835	3,502,483	0	7,208,318
Support services - Students	609,363	306,997	0	916,360
Support services - Instructional Staff	111,316	380,389	0	491,705
Support services - General Administration	4,400,761	0	0	4,400,761
Support services - Building Level Admin	328,373	970,140	0	1,298,513
Business Support Services	58,719	0	0	58,719
Business Support - Fiscal Services	154,838	0	0	154,838
Operation and Maintenance Plant Services	1,694,955	0	11,066	1,706,021
Student Transportation	1,789,694	0	0	1,789,694
Support Services - Central Office	96,353	0	0	96,353
Community Services	332,945	0	0	332,945
Capital Outlay	0	0	26,200	26,200
Debt principal	0	0	790,480	790,480
Total Disbursements	13,283,152	5,160,009	827,746	19,270,907
Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(1,171,014)	0	(827,746)	(1,998,760)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Loan proceeds	0	0	11,066	11,066
Transfers In	0	0	816,680	816,680
Transfers Out	(816,680)	0	0	(816,680)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(816,680)	0	827,746	11,066
Net Changes in Fund Balance	(1,987,694)	0	0	(1,987,694)
Fund Balance – June 30, 2024	11,511,500	0	0	11,511,500
Fund Balance – June 30, 2025	$ 9,523,806	$ 0	$ 0	$ 9,523,806

Net changes in fund balance	$ (1,987,694)
Changes in:	
Capital assets – purchases less depreciation	(798,726)
Note payable liability – principal borrowings	(11,066)
Note payable liability – principal payments	790,480
Change in net assets on the Statement of Support, Revenue and Expenses	$ (2,007,006)

See Accompanying Independent Auditor's Report.

Groundhog Day is coming up, and if the groundhog sees his shadow, we're stuck with six more weeks of frozen paws. If you've ever played Minesweeper, then you'll love this game.

The Mission: Place exactly twelve clouds on the grid to keep our furry friend at C10 in the dark. I already helped you out by placing one cloud in B10 and another in D10, so you only have to place ten more.

See those numbers in the squares? They aren't just for show! A number tells you exactly how many Clouds to place in the squares touching them (up, down, left, right, and even diagonally!). Don't go putting a cloud on a number square—that's a "cat-astrophe"! Clouds only go in the blank white squares. To win, you must block the sun from every side! You'll need at least one Cloud somewhere in Column C (above him).

If you get stuck, don't have a catnip fit! Use a pencil so you can erase your "me-ow-stakes." Solve it quickly, or we'll be wearing our winter coats until April!

	A	B	C	D	E
1		1			
2				2	
3	2				
4			3		
5		1			
6					2
7		2			
8				0	
9	1				
10