



# The Record

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## Three Eleanors

By Dr. Jim Haas



Years ago, I adopted a black-and-tan female dachshund that I named Eleanor in honor of Eleanor of Aquitaine, about whom more later. Eleanor the dog lived to be 18 and was affectionate, playful, and shrewd.

For a time, she had a male beagle playmate, Watson, who adored her. On summer nights, they enjoyed catching lightning bugs in the back yard, but their tactics differed because she was smart, and he was not.

The beagle would run around leaping after them while Eleanor saw that the bugs were attracted to a low ground light, sat next to it, and waited for the bugs to come to her. Very efficient.

Eleanor hunted bigger prey, as well. One night, I opened the back door to let her in only to have her race past me with her head down—not her usual behavior—and run into a dark bedroom closet from which she soon emerged trying to not be noticed. Investigation revealed the hind quarter of a rabbit hidden among my shoes. My sweet little dog was a killer.

Her namesake Eleanor (1122-1204) was the beautiful, well-educated, and high-spirited Duchess of Aquitaine, the richest province in what is now France. The most eligible and powerful woman in 12<sup>th</sup> century Europe, she married King Louis VII of France and, the marriage annulled after failing to produce a son, King Henry II of England with whom she had two kings of England and six other children. Any woman who could deal with the tempestuous Henry deserves admiration, and Eleanor's influence helped shape the culture and politics of the High Middle Ages.

My third Eleanor, and the most famous person I've actually seen, was Eleanor Roosevelt, Franklin's First Lady and one of the most respected people of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When I was seven, my mother took me to hear Mrs. Roosevelt speak to a packed house in the largest auditorium in our city. She took the stage to a standing ovation, though I was too short to see her until peo-



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## Churches focus on social issues

By Murrel Bland

About 170 members of Wyandotte County churches showed up Tuesday night May 3 at Oak Ridge Missionary Baptist Church to hear details of a new organization, Churches United for Justice (CUJ). The organization is focused on two main areas—affordable housing and violent crime.

One of the solutions that the organization has suggested to deal with the affordable housing issue is landlord risk mitigation. First let's look at the problem. There are about 3,800 housing units in Wyandotte County of public housing or those funded with federal money from what is called Section 8 certificates. Many landlords shy away from Section 8 because they have trouble collecting rent from these tenants and often have to evict renters; many times, renters trash homes just before leaving. The mitigation progress would establish a fund which could help subsidize lack of payments and material damage for aggrieved landlords. Such a program has been successful in Denver, Orlando, Portland and Orlando.

This housing issue brings up an important public policy matter--does Wyandotte County really need any more public housing that would make a bad situation worse? Are surrounding communities, including Johnson County, doing their part to provide affordable housing?

CUJ also has suggested that a land trust be established to shift vacant parcels from a land bank. Any such action should be sensitive to neighborhoods. There have been success stories of such efforts in Detroit as seen on HGTV. Wy-

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# Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

**O**K Mr. Weatherman, knock it off. You just don't know how to predict our weather anymore. I betcha if we bring Fred Broski back with his crazy antics, he could do it in a comedic way. Right Fred? Can't believe how our weather comes and goes.

Such a sad ending for a beautiful lady who was a great singer. Why would anyone take their own life who was rich and famous? Naomi Judd did and to me it was such a shock. It is so hard to lose someone

and to top it off by their own hand. So many people do that. There is so much help for those who are suicidal.

The guys and gals are really working hard on the "Turner Depot". I have some stuff I need to donate.

Darn weather keeps them behind. They really need more supplies, muscle, and money.

I remember when Arlie was so happy with what was taking place on that corner. She would have loved that bench. Remember the mural she

did in the courthouse? She gave me copy of it and I had it matted and framed. So proud of it.

Well, dear readers, guess I will sign off. Please be kind, lvyaa all. You little old gal from Argentine. Sue Bless you all!



This is a copy of the mural that Arlie painted in the City Hall of Kansas City, Kansas.



This lonely bench was dedicated a few years ago. It is in the memory of our dear Arlie Gentry. This was her "spot", hence, that is why her bench sets there. Her grandchildren knew she loved to sit and watch the birds, the butterflies, see the flowers. Miss you dear Arlie.



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## Mayor needs to realize reality of governing

By Murrel Bland

Several years ago, there was a story floating around Kansas City, Kansas, City Hall about a new mayor who wanted to make a substantial impact on the community with his administration.

According to legend, a long-time city hall bureaucrat let the mayor know the political realities of city government.

"We don't even buy paperclips without two votes," the bureaucrat said. At that time, three commissioners directed

city government, Fast-forward to today. Mayor Tyrone Garner has come to city hall with what he describes as a substantial agenda for change. He needs

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By Sharon Hoover

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

the public, enjoy music, food, beverages, popcorn/giveaways, and service information.

Some bad news. The Kansas Dept of Health & Environment has tested Wyandotte County Lake water to have higher than normal levels of microcystin, a red algal that likes colder water and recommended a red warning label. Red warning signs have placed around the lake. This means no water contact or recreation, including direct splashing. Restrictions include: no swimming or wading; no pets or livestock in the water. If in contact, wash with clean, potable water. Avoid areas of algae accumulation and do not let people or pets eat the dried algae or drink infected water.

Clean fish well and discard guts. The UG will provide updates to the public. The algae will burn off as the water warms up, but signs will remain until it is safe to go into the water. I'll keep this on my radar to watch for the "all clear".

For those gardeners out there, the UG Parks & Recreation Dept is selling Noxious Weed Chemicals while supplies last. The price for Imitator Plus is \$45.00 /gallon and Amine 2-4,D for \$25/gallon. Cash only. You must be a Wyandotte county resident. Office located at 3488 West Drive. Sales will be on select Thursdays - May 12 & 19, June 9 & 16, July 14, August 18, September 15, and October 13, from 8am-12pm. Phone 913 573-8306.

In the past few months, I've

run across some authors that you may be interested in: the first is Alice Feeney, the novel "Rock, Paper, Scissors" a twisty tale. The second is "The Girl Before" by Rena Olsen about a woman whose life is turned upside down. As for a few of my od favorites, John Sandford's "The Investigator" follows the adventures of Letty Davenport, daughter of his famous character Lucas Davenport and Lisa Scottoline's newest is "What Happened to the Bennetts?" about mistaken identity and the witness protection program.

Until next time, stay safe, and be kind to those around you. Feel lucky to live in America and say a prayer for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to be free.

May has been designated Older Americans Month and Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area on Aging is celebrating with the theme of Age My Way. The event will be Thursday, May 19 from 11am-2pm outdoors of their office at 849 N 47th St. Free and open to



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# SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

Over the break, if you have any questions about any of the legislation being considered, feel free to contact me at pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov.

**VETO SESSION ADJOURNS**  
Legislators returned Monday, April 25, for veto session. We adjourned at 2:20am on Friday, April 29, 2022. Over this week, we addressed a number of the governor’s vetoes, lingering conference committee reports, and a couple of procedural motions. We also unanimously approved the appointment of Julie Allen-Murray as Administrator of the Department of Credit Unions.

## HONORING THE 2022 NCAA MEN’S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

The state house was electric on Monday, when players, coaches, and staff on the University of Kansas men’s basketball team came to Topeka to be honored by the House, the Senate, and Governor Laura Kelly for their sixth national championship win. The Jayhawks’ 72-69 victory over the University of North Carolina this year marks the biggest

comeback in NCAA championship game history, with the team overcoming a 16-point deficit. The team also ended the season as the winningest program in NCAA history at 2,357 all time wins.

## FOOD SALES TAX REDUCTION PASSES THE LEGISLATURE

Currently, Kansas’s state sales tax on food is 6.5%, the second highest rate in the country. This week, the Legislature approved a plan to stagger the reduction of the state portion of the food sales tax over three years, taking it to 4% in January 2023; 2% in 2024; and 0% in 2025. At a time when our economy is strong, costs are high, and families need a hand up, it was a no-brainer for me to support this path to elimination, despite it not being the most immediate or efficient proposal.

Let’s be clear: the only reason our families will have to wait until 2025 for a total elimination of this tax – rather than the perfectly feasible July 1st, 2022 date included in our plan to #AxetheFoodTax – is because Kansas Republicans want to ensure that Governor Kelly doesn’t benefit electorally from this policy come November. That’s why Senator Tom Holland’s motion to debate our plan to eliminate it immediately and completely failed largely along partisan lines.

Governor Kelly is going to sign the bill we passed unanimously this week. But that doesn’t mean our work on this issue needs to stop. Legislators will return to Topeka in three weeks, and Republican leadership needs to know that Kansans want the partisan games to end and deserve real relief now. You can text AXETHETAX (all one word) to 33339 to easily send an email to leadership asking them to do the right thing and approve a bill that takes the tax to 0% starting July 1.

## ACTION ON THE FLOOR

The bulk of the time on the floor this week was spent considering Conference Committee Reports (CCRs). As a refresher, confer-

ence committees are formed when there are differences between the Senate and the House’s versions of a bill. The committees are generally made up of the chair, vice-chair, and ranking minority member of the committee in which the bill was originally worked. In theory, these 6 legislators work out those differences and bring a compromise bill to their respective chambers for consideration.

Sometimes, though, these conference committees are opportunities for legislative leadership to bundle bills or replace them outright with their legislative priorities. Once these CCRs come to the Senate floor, they are not subject to amendment. Below are a few CCRs of interest that passed this week:

### Conference Committee Reports

- **AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING: HB 2237** creates several programs that promote the development of accessible and affordable housing. The Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit would provide tax credits to investors, builders, and developers that invest in housing projects that are likely to provide the greatest economic benefit to and best meet the needs of the community lacking adequate housing. This conference committee report also includes my colleague Senator Dinah Sykes’s bill that expands the childcare tax credit program to allow more employers to offer services to their employees.

- **AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES: SB 313** would permit operation of driverless-capable vehicles without a human driver. The original bill’s scope was limited to commercial vehicles; throughout the legislative process, it was expanded to include driverless trucks and passenger vehicles. Efforts to create guardrails for public safety were taken out of the bill that came to the floor for a vote this week, which

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## Petty...

...from page 4

is one of the reasons I voted No.

• **KPERS MEGAPAYMENT:** SB 421 transfers an additional \$1 billion (with a B) to the public employees retirement fund. KPERS will be 80% funded by next year, even with no extra payments, and reported savings for the State General Fund will decrease if the assumed rate of return is lowered this year because of legislation like this. Given our financial standing and the established stability of our KPERS fund, I believe it would be far more beneficial to Kansans in my district if we did not hastily drain our funds and instead increased SPED funding, provided a \$250 rebate for tax filers, and delivered a full elimination of the state sales tax on food July 1st.

• **MEDICAL MARIJUANA:** While the Legislature did not pass a policy to legalize medicinal cannabis this session, we did pass HB 2540, which amends the definition of marijuana to exempt FDA-approved drug products containing an active ingredient derived from marijuana. The bill originally included language to declassify fentanyl strips – which help reduce opioid overdoses – as drug paraphernalia, but far-right senators objected to that language.

• **FREEDOM TO SPREAD DISEASE:** SB 34 would remove the authority of the Secretary of Health and Environment or other health officers to order any enforcement of measures to prevent or curtail the spread of infectious and contagious diseases. I voted No.

• **SPORTS WAGERING:** The Senate narrowly passed a sports wagering bill in the early hours of Friday morning that would allow Kansans to place bets on games on apps or at casinos, and could bring an estimated \$10 million to the state. A relatively novel piece of the bill is the establishment of a special fund designed to lure major sports teams to the

state, which would be filled by revenues on bets.

The Governor has the authority to veto any bills passed during veto session. The Legislature will have the opportunity to review any vetoes when we return on May 23rd.

### VETOES SUSTAINED, VETO OVERRIDDEN

The Legislature attempted to override a number of the vetoes issued by Governor Kelly. When the governor vetoes a bill, it returns to its chamber of origin for consideration for override. In the Senate, 27 YES votes are required to override the governor's veto. In the House, that number is 84.

The Senate did not attempt to override the governor's vetoes of two bills: SB 161 would have allowed companies like FedEx and Amazon to launch package delivery robots in Kansas communities, and SB 286 would have expanded liability protections for healthcare providers.

The Senate initiated four veto overrides, all of which were successful in the Senate but fortunately failed in the House:

• SB 160 bans trans girls and women from participating in elementary, high school, and collegiate level sports on girls' and women's teams. I have previously shared my opposition to this bill, which sends a message to trans youth in our state that they are not welcome in the same way as their peers. The Senate successfully overrode the governor's veto of this bill on a vote of 28-10, but the House sustained her veto by a vote of 81 to 41. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

• SB 199 amends the law governing short-term limited duration (STLD) policies, which currently allows for policies extending to 6 or 12 months. This bill would allow these policies to last as long as 3 years. Our healthcare system is deeply flawed, and plans like these are superficially attractive quick fixes that lead to long-term neg-

ative consequences. These plans hurt our most vulnerable in the risk pool by increasing premiums for comprehensive coverage, and they can come back to haunt individuals who elect to use them by capping benefits on coverage for events like heart attacks and excluding coverage for essential health benefits like maternity care. The Senate successfully overrode the governor's veto of this bill on a vote of 28-9, but the House sustained her veto by not holding a vote. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

• SB 493 prohibits cities and counties from regulating plastic and other containers designed for the consumption, transportation, or protection of merchandise, food, or beverages. The Senate successfully overrode the governor's veto of this bill on a vote of 27-12, but the House sustained her veto by not holding a vote. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

• SB 58 suggests that our public schools – which are subject to strict oversight by the state – are hiding nefarious materials used to brainwash our children. It does so in an attempt to create a foundation from which politicians can ban books, dictate curriculum, and limit our children's right to an honest and accurate education. Kansas kids deserve an education that enables them to learn from our past and help create a better future, and to develop critical thinking and interpersonal skills that will allow them to stay competitive as they enter the workforce and interact with their peers. The Senate successfully overrode the governor's veto of this bill on a vote of 27-12, but the House sustained her veto by a vote of 72 to 50. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

The only successful veto override was for HB 2448, which requires adults receiving food assistance to participate in an employment and training program if they work less than 30 hours per week. The House overrode this veto 86-36. The Senate overrode it 29-11. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

### EDUCATION FUNDING

For the second year in a row, the House K-12 Education Budget and Senate Education committees have tied public school funding to policy pieces, many of which are aimed at undermining those very same public schools. This is poor legislative practice and unnecessarily complicates our state's historically shaky ability to comply with constitutional requirements for school funding.

Under the Gannon ruling, our state has phased in adequate funding for our schools over 6 years. The Gannon plan has allowed schools to gradually rebuild their infrastructure, recruit staff, and reestablish programs, with unavoidable complications from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing supply chain disruptions and staff shortages. We are in Year 5 of that plan, which means that while HB 2567 does fully fund our schools, our districts and students have still not had adequate funding since 2009.

The Legislature has simultaneously spent the past 6 years shifting the goalposts on our public schools in terms of policy, which has created uncertainty, instability, and diversion of resources from the classroom to administrative attention to these matters. The policies included in this year's bill – including the asinine "open borders" policy that will systematize inequality for nonresident students – yet again contribute to this issue for our schools.

I am also extremely discouraged that the compromise reached between Republican leadership included no additional funding for special education, which has remained underfunded for years, despite the fact that we can afford these enhancements. Special education funding is mandated to ensure that over 88,000 students – in public, private, and home schools – have access to the resources they need to be successful. Our refusal to provide the state portion of this funding requires school districts to dip into their general funds.

# Mayor...

...from page 3

to understand that he needs at least five votes, plus his, if substantial change is going to occur.

The mayor also needs to understand that many of the same voters who elected him also elected commissioners. People will support those things that they help create. Abruptly ending a recent commission meeting without letting commissioners express their views sent the wrong message from the mayor.

Chuck Stites, a newcomer commissioner from Edwardsville, probably summed it up very well:

“We just want to know what is going on,” Stites said.

There is controversy surrounding the recent appointment of Cheryl Harrison-Lee as county administrator. The mayor, as chief executive officer, clearly had authority to nominate her; all commission members approved her appointment for one year.

But now commission members are favoring a national search for county administrator, but would have Harrison-Lee invited to apply. She is now auditing Unified Government departments, apparently trying to find ways of saving money. At the same time, a volunteer committee, including Chris Steineger, is focused on governmental efficiency. Steineger, a Democrat-turned- Republican, was an unsuccessful candidate for mayor.

Harrison-Lee was a controversial city administrator at Gardner. She resigned and received \$350,000 in severance pay. She continues to be a consultant for Kansas City, Mo; critics have raised concern about a possible conflict of interest.

The mayor needs to have better relations with fellow commission members. He

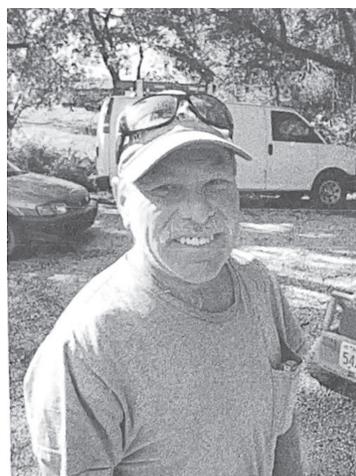
also needs to remember that he was elected by only about 400 votes more than his opponent, which is not that much of a margin when considering more than 165,000 residents live in Wyandotte County.

*Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press. He is an independent columnist*

## Our Heartfelt Thanks

The family of Vincent Darling would like to thank you for the kind expressions of sympathy shown following his passing. Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated and a great comfort to all of the family.

The Family of  
Vincent Paul Darling



## Vincent Paul Darling

*Vincent Paul Darling was born December 6th, 1959 to Robert and Charlotte Darling in Kansas City KS. He passed away April 5, 2022 at the age of 62. Vincent grew up in Shawnee, KS with 4 brothers and attended school there. Vincent enjoyed time spent in the outdoors. He worked as a landscaper, handyman and was a master of many trades. Over the years Vincent enjoyed camping, riding his Harley, spending time with his son Adam, grandchildren, and drinking his beer.*

*He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Darling.*

*Vincent is survived by his mother Charlotte Darling, his son Adam Darling (Caley Penn), son Ricky Nash, his 4 brothers, Kenneth Darling, David Darling (Christina Cain), Scott Darling (Kelley Pica) and Jeffrey Darling (Deanna) Also survived by 4 Grandchildren Destiny Darling, Brityn Darling, Cruz Penn, Claire Penn, 1 Great Granddaughter Dallas Darling and 1 nephew Justin Darling.*

*Gone to soon but we find comfort in that his life was well-lived and well-loved. Vincent will be deeply missed.*

*The Rosary will be prayed at 4 p.m. with a visitation from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday April 13th, 2022 at Porter Funeral Home 8535 Monrovia, Lenexa, KS. Graveside Services will at 11 a.m. Thursday April 14th, at St Joseph Cemetery, 11709 W 61st Terrace, Shawnee, KS Deacon Tom Mulvenon Officiating*

### -LATINO WORLD FESTIVAL- SAT. MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2022 MEMORIAL HALL 600 N. 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET KANSAS CITY, KANSAS



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## Haas...

...from page 1

ple sat down. Her topic was the United Nations, one of FDR's projects that his widow enthusiastically promoted, serving as a delegate and helping write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Her speech didn't enter my long-term memory, and I'm sure I understood little of it, but she left impressions: she wore a maroon dress, spoke in front of a large blue U.N. flag, and got another standing ovation when she finished.

Eleanor was an active supporter of civil rights, including women's rights, of New Deal anti-poverty programs, and other worthy causes, and served as FDR's eyes and ears, traveling the country and reporting on how ordinary Americans were doing during the Great Depression. She wrote a popular daily newspaper column, "My Day," numerous magazine columns

encouraging reader responses intended partly to help women feel less isolated, and had a regular radio program concerning issues of the day.

World War II found Mrs. Roosevelt busy organizing Red Cross programs, meeting with troops in overseas war zones, co-chairing the Office of Civil Defense, advocating for day-care for mothers working in defense industries, supporting the Tuskegee Airmen program, and much more. After the war, she was a leader in various U.N. positions.

Mrs. Roosevelt's last official duty was as President Kennedy's appointed chair of his Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. How ironic, given the current Supreme Court news. Imagine the audacity of a few Justices, all but one men, proposing to take reproductive decisions away from American women, a right they have had for half a century. Mrs. Roosevelt would object. Everyone should.

## Churches...

...from page 1

Wyandotte County has about 4,500 vacant properties.

The violence issue is a very difficult one to solve. In 1954, there were seven homicides in Wyandotte County; during 2020, there were 58. During the 1950s, homicides were often caused by domestic quarrels among middle-age persons. Today, many of the murders are a result of illegal drugs; the victims are often those in their early 20s or teenagers. Many youths today often are attracted by gang leaders who drive big cars, flash cash and wear expensive clothes; often these gang leaders are drug dealers.

CUJ is focused on violence prevention and intervention. One of the successful prevention CUJ cited was the PIVOT

program used successfully in Cincinnati. PIVOT stands for Placed-based Investigations of Violent Territories and takes a comprehensive approach to dealing with high-crime areas; crime was reduced substantially at these locations.

CUJ should work closely with other crime prevention organizations including neighborhood watch groups and police advisory organizations along with Community Police officers.

CUJ is planning a rally at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 7 at Mt. Carmel Church of God in Christ, 2025 N. 12th St. with a goal of attracting more than 1,000 persons. For more information, telephone Amber Adams at 913-526-6831.

*Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press. He is an independent columnist.*

# Guest Editorial

## Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

"The times of enormous challenges present enormous opportunities. But, despite all the crises, all of the partisanship, all the shouting and showmanship, I really know this and you know it too! We are a great nation, because we're basically good people."

And here, in America, good journalism, good satire about our leaders, about our society is quintessentially an American thing."

It demonstrates the power of our example and I believe it reveals our soul; our soul of the nation."

That's what I'd like to toast tonight:

To the Journalists and their families, to the American people and their elected representatives, to the United States of America!"

By the way, Madeleine Albright was right, we Are the indispensable nation!"

**President Joe Biden White House Correspondents' dinner, 2022, Washington Hilton hotel**

It was good to see the president in attendance at this gala dinner. The first time for a president to attend in six years. There were many jokes about the president and about the attendees.

President Biden showed that he has respect for the members of the Media. He spoke of the danger they put themselves in to bring us the facts and to document the terrible ravages of the war in Ukraine.

President Biden praised the hard work and the difficult pressure of having to work to meet deadlines.

The president revealed his strength of character to serve as the butt of jokes. He laughed at them all.

And when President Biden entered the ballroom, he received a standing ovation. That was good to witness. The president won them over by his opening remarks:

"This is the first that a president attended, in six years. It's understandable. We had a horrible plague followed by two years of COVID!" This was received with claps, whoops and much laughter! It was the President's night to shine and he really did!

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

### ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 22-017 Toilet Partition Replacement & Upgrades . Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - "IFB No. 22-017 – "Toilet Partition Replacement & Upgrades "

Bids will be opened 5/12/22 @ 10:00AM in the Purchasing Office.

Bid Documents are available at the Purchasing Department Office, at the above-address between 8 AM and 4 PM, M-F. Bid Documents are posted at <http://www.kckps.org/index.php/invitation-for-bids> .

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 Para personas que viven o trabajan en códigos postales 66106 y 66103

**TUESDAYS:**  
**9AM-12PM**

**2ND SATURDAYS:**  
**10AM-2PM**

**MARTES:**  
**9AM-12PM**

**SEGUNDO  
SÁBADO:**  
**10AM-2PM**

**THE HUB ARGENTINE**  
3730 Metropolitan Ave | Kansas City, KS 66106



[www.thehubargentine.org](http://www.thehubargentine.org)



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