

HHIA Meeting  
Sept 25, 2017

Roll call

Present: Anna Baldwin, Lisa Bertke, Eileen Muir, Beth Murphy, Mike Dauphin, Jim Sahaida, Tara Ohler  
Absent: Stacy Ross, Kendal Dauphin, Lisa Coleman

Introduce New Neighbors: Zach Nilson, lives on Fillmore

Guest Speakers

State Rep Fred Wessels – Who watched the Vietnam documentary last night? Last night was my night, the Tet Offensive. They needed bodies, I was a body. I went to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Company Clerk, Radar. That was an experience that I would want to repeat. The documentary was really well done and I find it really interesting. If you are interested in history, it's a great piece. If you're in the 81<sup>st</sup> House District you got or you will get a directory from me. Mainly names of federal, state, and local elected officials that you might need to call. The inside cover contains the "report on the capital". If you provide your email address to me then I can send you the capital report. There is also a website here with current legislative activity. There won't be any until January. The leg session runs from Jan to middle of May. If you go to the back there are some things that are noteworthy. All the bills that passed both the House and the Senate. There were 75 bills. Over 2,000 bills that were introduced. Of these 75 bills, 18 are appropriations bills that we have to pass in one form or another. 5 bills coming to veto that are also outlined. Near the back of the booklet there is Fiscal Year 2018 Missouri Operating Budget. General Revenue was \$9 billion. Social Services gets 34% (largest portion is Medicaid). 22% Elementary and Secondary education. Total state budget is \$27 bil, \$9 bil is federal transfers. Another \$9 bil is the general revenue budget, last \$9 bil is revenue that goes directly to a dept (Conservation, MoDot, etc). Last page contains a section for "Unwanted Solicitations" for Missouri No Call, Stop Unsolicited Postal Mail, Unsolicited Junk Mail. You will get this soon in the mail.

I am in the phone book if anyone has a phone book. Food Drive to benefit St Trinity, St. Stephen, and CCBF Food Pantry. 5517 Koeln organized by 25 Democratic House Reps. If you can spare some canned goods or other personal items. Take it to 5517 Koeln Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> between 9am and noon or bring it to my house.

Q: So few Democrats in the legislature. What is the chance of districts being redrawn?

A: The chance of it getting redrawn is excellent because the law requires it to be redrawn every 10 years. Census comes out in 2021 and sometime between then and Dec we will have drawn some local districts. Are they going to be fairer? I think they will be a little fairer. If you look at races across Missouri, in the last election the Republicans won, but in the prior years Democrats won. There are a lot of Democrats in Missouri. Gerrymandering has made it much tougher road for the Republicans to take in 2021. It's never going to be even, that's for sure.

Q: Why do we keep getting mailings from other senators as if I'm in their district but I'm not.

A: I don't know. Some reps may be running for another office and wanting to get their name out there.

State Sen Jamilah Nasheed – Good evening. Let me first thank each and everyone one of you for taking time out of your schedule. This is truly what community life is all about. Sen. Jamilah Nasheed I represent the 5<sup>th</sup> senatorial district, everything east of Kingshighway. I have been in the senate for 5 years. Wanted to talk to you about what has occurred in the senate the last session. Major attack on

the union movement. Many of my colleagues are doing all that they can to turn back the block on the union movement in the state of Missouri. We had to go out and get signatures to put it on the ballot to beat it back. They were able to bring forth a Right to Work bill. We aren't going to allow for that to happen on our watch. Since we couldn't beat you in the house, we are going to beat you at the ballot box. Over 200,000 signatures were gathered. This is a systematic movement going on throughout the country. The Koch Brothers have been pushing this for far too long. We are going to show them that the people are the ones that have the power. Be on the watch for that. Continue and talk to each and every one of your neighbors about how important it is to go vote. Voting...there is another attack on us in the state of MO. The Koch Brothers decided that they wanted to implement a voter id policy. We don't have a problem with voter impersonation. People barely go vote. We don't have an issue with this, we have an issue with participation. They are trying to turn back strides we have made with voter rights. Min wage. How many of you have been following the min wage issue. Some of you may not even agree with me on min wage. I can tell you, no one can live off \$7.70 an hour. These aren't little kids anymore. We have seniors that are told that they can live comfortably but to find out the cost of living, utilities, and prescription drugs are rising. We have to do all we can to increase the min wage. And that is going to be on the ballot as well. We are fighting back at the ballot box. We are going to need each and every one of you and let's fight the good fight. Crime is another issue. The number one problem that is plaguing our city is crime. It's not just North St. Louis, it is South St. Louis. So go NSL, so go SSL. What can we do to reduce crime? Two elements: quality education (children being passed from one grade to another without knowing how to read) and jobs (20% of black men in the city of STL unemployed). Many of them are unemployed because they have felony charges. Even if they wanted to change their lives...the first question that they get asked if is you are a felon. Even if they wanted a second chance...they can't get it because of that question. I have been fighting extremely hard to ban the box on applications at the state level and local level. The city of St. Louis no longer asks the question. The state no longer asks you per an order from Nixon. This doesn't mean that you can't get a background check, but don't eliminate them on the front end. We aren't saying that you shouldn't get the background check, but not on the front end. That is a barrier to job opportunities. Education is going to be my number one issue. Right now we have young kids who are in an unaccredited district...they can't even apply for the A+ scholarship. I filed legislation that even if you are in an unaccredited district and you meet all of the requirements you can still get the scholarship. How many kids would have been left behind? Those are the types of things that I work for. We had 10000 kids that dropped out of the system. If you don't educate them, you are going to incarcerate them. We passed legislation where young folks can go to a school called Fresh Start, they can still get a degree by way of an options program through the GED test. GEDs are hard to get. I served on budget for the last 6 years. We oversee \$27 bil. I am happy to say that I have been instrumental in protecting College Bound funds. I was the first person to put over \$2 mil in the budget for Teach for America when they weren't receiving anything in the state. We have a dark cloud right now over our city. I'm sure you all have been following the unrest. People have the right to protest and be angry, their first amendment right. They don't have a right to destroy property or vandalize. The same people that are vandalizing are the same people that support them. I believe that these are people coming from the outside of the city, anarchists who want to put a blemish on the movement for progress. We have to figure out as a collective how we are going to bridge the gap between law enforcement and community. Because it is fractured. All of us have our different opinions but at the end of the day we have to come together and figure out how we are going to come together as one St. Louis. We need some help right now. It's really bad. I'm a firm believer that we are resilient. We have to begin to quit pointing fingers and figure out solutions. How do we get out of it is the question? Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here...

Q: not familiar with your district

A: I represent everything east of Kingshighway. We are a thriving city...when you start looking at all of the development that is happening in the city. We have IKEA, economic development, tax credits that I know are changing neighborhoods. New Mercedes Benz dealership. We have a lot of major development going on. We have to make sure that we continue to have the development, but we have to deal with the race relations and the schools because no one is going to want to come here or raise their kids here. We can't always look at the bad. Look at all of the eateries that we have.

Q: Seems like there is a real competition between the charter schools and the public schools.

A: I think that it's healthy. If you're doing a better job then you don't have to be afraid of that kid going anywhere else. However, I do believe that they should be held accountable in terms of how they are measured. At one point I wasn't for charter schools. They're taking money away from public schools...well they are public schools. We have seen some bad charter schools but they have closed. When you have a bad charter school, we can shut them down. When you have a bad public school...you can't shut them down.

Q: My wife works at a charter school and they are gaining momentum with idea sharing among other schools.

Q: If you like the competition would you be for the voucher system?

A: vouchers are unconstitutional here right now. Until we begin to have that conversation. Depending on how the legislation looked. Right now I'm against it, but if I could see legislation that evens it out where you don't have all of the public dollars going to private entities. How do you balance it out?

Q: I'm all for the economic development but I do believe that we need to be very careful with how much TIF money we give away, education loses out.

A: That's right. It has gone to people...big corporations. I agree...we need to find a balancing act. Another issue...we have approx. 10,000 vacant and abandoned buildings. If we are able to put all 10,000 properties back on the tax roll how much more money we would have coming back in. You have better blocks, property value goes up, homes back on the tax roll. I have been working with Otis Williams and the Mayor's office and we are trying to come to an agreement to deal with a comprehensive plan. She is looking to let people offer a bid for properties, you will have a certain amount of time to get that property back up and going if they give you a good deal. In 2-3 years. Also trying to get the banks involved. They have a lot of blood on their hands. Foreclosure crisis was a major hit to our neighborhoods. The banks need to have some skin in the game...stimulus package. Low interest rates for home improvements.

NIS Andrew Hernandez – CSB 13<sup>th</sup> Ward NIS, I work with Beth and deal with problems in the 13<sup>th</sup> Ward. It has been relatively quiet. We were hoping that someone from the CSB could be here. I worked for the CSB when I joined the city in 2000. I was with them for 8 1/2 years. Everybody here should know what it is. Anyone doesn't know? Left a green sheet on the back table. It tells you everything you need to know. What you can report. Lots of other stuff that you can report. You can report by phone, by website, by Twitter, or email. What is CSB? Started in 1985. Just crossed the million phone call mark. When I started there were six operators. 8 operators who take all of your calls. Street lights, potholes, trash isn't being collected, neighbor is being obnoxious. If you don't know what to do about something, call them. They are the people you call because they start the paper trail. Which follows to the NIS and Alderwoman. Takes thousands of calls a week. The operators do a wonderful job, I can attest to that. Under a lot of stress, some people aren't nice. They are there to help you. I got calls about anything...from yard weeds to real weed. If the CSB can't answer the question, they will try to get the answer for you. They have a mountain of resources. Stray animal, potholes, overgrown trees.

Q: Does the CSB actually do the work?

A: CSB does not do the work. They take the request and send it to the proper dept for execution.

Q: If you do call a second time, does it start all over like a new report.

A: Sometimes when they give you the # and you call back and the request has been closed. It can start the process over.

Chris Rumpsa/Captain Mueller – One of the bike guys in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. Wanted to thank everybody for the support that we have been getting. We have been getting a ton of food. In between the 12 hours and all the extra food I have been getting, my vest barely fits anymore. A lot of the civil unrest has been calming down. Officers are finally back on 8 hours shifts and getting our days off. We are keeping civil disobedience team at the ready. We don't want to allow for destruction of property. I just found out that I was coming here so I didn't get the chance to analyze your crime stats.

Q: Whatever you guys are doing to end the police chases, good job.

A: One of the things that we started doing is that we don't chase unless it's a violent felony. The officers are getting good at identifying the felons and just wait them out.

Sarah Martin – Sen. Nasheed is a tough act to follow. I have a pretty lean report. The CSB reports, it is helpful as an Alderwoman if you make the report. Then call me and let me know the report #. There is then a record that I can track. Lot of talk about the DESCO property...out of control weeds. They do have a taxing district (CID) single site taxing district which is not the best policy. The way that it was written there is a neighbor, someone who lives nearby on these boards. But DESCO is just putting DESCO folks on there. Now we have learned from our mistakes and they are not done that way anymore. Alderwoman Murphy and myself can adjust our CID through legislation. If they want to play nice and clean up the property but if they are going to be difficult about it then we will go after them. I am having an 11<sup>th</sup> Ward trash pickup on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Holly Hills may not have these issues but it would be nice to have your help. Loughborough by the park and at the 55 exit. Lyon's School in Carondelet/Patch has sat vacant for years. There is a contract on that...they did qualify for their loan. They will be turning that into 33 market rate apartments. This is huge. They are nice guys and they have already offered to donate the playground equipment to the neighborhood. Crosswalks...small signs that say "Missouri Law you must yield to Pedestrians". Pet peeve is people who don't yield to pedestrians when we are trying to cross the crosswalk. It is state law. People are asking for them here. Mike S has generously offered to donate a sign and I can get labor donated. The Carpenter's union has offered to put them in for free. If you want them get with me or get with Lisa and we can talk about how to raise funds. Would only take \$10-20 from each person on the block. We need one person to volunteer to take them out during a snow route.

Q: Old Office Depot in Loughborough Commons?

A: Not sure.

Q: Are we still on target for the building at Grand and Holly Hills.

A: I think we are still on target for the new apartments.

Q: What's the plan for the Family Dollar?

A: Nothing that we have heard of. The gym is happy because they needed more parking. The gym had been approached to expand.

Q: Any news on the flagpole replacement?

A: It is supposed to be on the way. The guy who hit it had insurance and they have already paid. It's just a matter of time...they have to get a bid out and keep it open for x amount of time. They have the money, it's going to get fixed.

Beth Murphy – The weeds...no one was claiming the weeds. Beth called Union Pacific and MoDot. No one was sure if it was theirs. Union pacific said there were no tracks there. Beth took pictures to send to him. The crosswalk signs can only go in marked crosswalks. I call them the zebra stripes. They will not let us use our capital funds for this. Success this week was in the park, The Bosnian festival even

with the Strange Folk festival. They were looking for a home and Sarah and I decided it would be a good place for them. It just happened that the mass and Bosnian festival were both scheduled. The Bosnian Festival was able to share the space just fine. We will not allow that to happen on the same weekend again. Woerner School dismissal time. People that live on Leona complain that people double park in front of their house. Peggy is having teachers park in the school parking lot to free up space. Someone called me and said that they shouldn't park in front of their house. But we can't really prevent that from happening. Police cameras are coming...we had nothing to do with that. Estimates & Apportions voted on it...Axon is the company. It is free for a year. It is just a marketing tool. It is a good thing because we get to try it for free. The devil is always in the detail.. Who will have access to the data...things like that. We will have time to work on it. We moved the dumpsters that were in the park. People were always dumping illegally. You need to go down to Gasconade now. They also removed them from Willmore. It will take some of us time to get used to it. Mostly the people in the county.

Jamilah did an Op Ed on the body cameras.

Holly Hills Grills coming up this Sunday. Please join us.

Q: I attended the Strange Folk Festival. I enjoyed it. It was in Lafayette Square last year. They were supposed to pay \$5,000 last year.

A: They asked for a \$5,000 donation which she put up the first year. Did she pay anything? She paid for her permit and security. It has been cleaned up very nicely. You wouldn't notice that 20,000 people. It seemed to go well...it will be the last weekend of September next weekend.

Q: Does anyone know why the flags are at half mast today.

A: A firefighter passed away.

Q: Leaf pickup, no leaf pickup? On our street Bellerive it is too much.

A: Probably not. What is the city offering our street as a solution. They stopped doing leaf pickup last summer. It was a money issue. Get them in the street on the street cleaning day and they will pick them up. You can call the CSB if you bag them and call to make an appt they will pick them up.

Q: The trash cans by the playground on Loughborough, they have been taken away. That part is always full of litter.

A: Call CSB. Beth will bug the Parks Dept again. Mike Dauphin will make a note about it, he is on the Park Advisory Board.

Q: I was really disappointed that the B of A did the resolution for Mr Smith

A: Any Alderman can introduce a resolution. Alderman Mohammad introduced the resolution. Smith's parents were in attendance. It was read out loud. Regardless of what you think of him, his mother lost a son. Alderman Ingrassia, she called for an in bank which means we all put our signatures on it.

Alderwoman Howard objected and it was not recognized. People did not want to raise a stink in front of the parents. It is a non-binding resolution.

Sen. Nasheed: When you do resolutions...you are doing them for people that did something magnificent.

Alderman Martin: I would like to see people get up in arms about things that impact your immediate lives...but they never do.

Steve Butz – Cops Walking a Beat program. We are now not the only neighborhood where this program is. The program is going well...we have about 350 families participating. So far so good. Lots of positive response. It is good for the officers, they are out of their cars, they are talking and meeting with people. It is easier to hate someone on social media from afar...but these cops are in your neighborhood.

Expanded to the entire Holly Hills boundaries. In Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> the program expanded to Carondelet (12 block area). Today they got their two cop bikes delivered. Primarily they walk a beat. If you are interested there is a Safety tab at [www.hollyhills.info](http://www.hollyhills.info). If you want to get involved I would encourage you to. Most people give \$20 a month.

Q: Not to be a penny pincher, but how are you accounting for the money.

A: We have a security company called Campbell Security. They hire the off duty secondary officers. Two of them are local guys. They do the scheduling, they do the supervising and Campbell Security bills us once a month. 4 days a week, 4 hour shifts. Two cops in uniform.

Q: As we expanded the parameters, we didn't increase the shift hours. Carondelet is on their own. Holly Hills, Idaho, Alabama, and Vermont. It is a separate program.

Q: How is it working? Is it reducing crime?

A: Holly Hills has been a safe neighborhood...month over month, we have reduced 9 out of the 10 months and we consistently stay in the top 10 safe neighborhoods.

Q: is that going to effect people's insurance rates?

A: That is the thought.

Q: You are getting enough money from the program to fund it?

A: usually...

Vote on if we want to retain the current HHIA board

Next meeting, November 27th