



THE POLICE FOUNDATION OF KANSAS CITY A CALL FOR SERVICE

JULY 2022

FROM THE **CHAIRPERSON**

To our friends of the Kansas City Police Department:

Kansas City is a *volunteer* town. As you know, when we give our time we learn quite a bit about the needs of our town. We also become better acquainted with the dedicated professionals who serve all of us. I know I have become better acquainted with members of the KCPD.

In my case, I learned what our officers do that you don't see in the media.

- They help people change flat tires on the side of busy streets.
- They often rescue a child from addicted adults.
- Their social workers help people find jobs, food, medicine, health care, and numerous other supports.
- They reinforce positive decision making relating to school, gangs, and drugs for our teens through youth initiatives.
- They dig in their own pockets to help a mother of a slain child and her family relocate to a safer neighborhood.
- They protect you 24/7.

The Police Foundation of Kansas City supports our KCPD with your help.

You and your friends funded:

- Cameras to catch criminals and identify suspects;
- Robots to provide needed evidence from crime scenes;
- Bullet proof helmets;
- Canine Ballistic Vests; and
- Body worn cameras that document the crime occurrences.

What I've learned recently is how much and how *serious* our crime is in the Kansas City area...and that crime can spread into surrounding counties like Johnson, Jackson, Clay, Wyandotte, and more. I have learned that our Kansas City, Missouri Police Department should be recognized for years of being solid and is worthy of our support.

They risk their lives to save our lives.

Thank you for making a difference for our officers, and our community, as you support the Police Foundation of Kansas City.

Madeline Romious

Madeline Romious
Chairperson, Police Foundation of Kansas City



Madeline Romious
Board Chairperson
Police Foundation of Kansas City

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INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY FOCUS: **THE CRIME LAB**

Law enforcement warned us the demand was increasing exponentially. They even named it the “CSI effect.”

The public was under the impression that DNA samples collected at crime scenes would help crimes be solved faster. And they were right.

However, unlike television, more and more requests without equipment and a team to provide analysis of the increasing amount of data flooding the lab spells backlogs that actually hinder investigations and delay closure for victim’s families. Forensic laboratories

A female victim, shot in her home, was discovered. No known witnesses were apparent. A lone shell casing was sent to the Crime Lab for results. It sat behind hundreds of other cases in the que.

nationwide have experienced a growing demand for services that have far outpaced the resources allocated for the investigation of forensic evidence. Kansas City is no exception.

Police Departments nationwide are suffering the repercussions of backlogs and slowdowns in crime labs, due to the overwhelming number of samples being submitted for testing and conducting complicated forensic tests.

Delays in DNA testing can cause leads in investigations to go cold, can keep innocent people incarcerated longer than necessary and conversely, can allow criminals to remain on the streets endangering the safety of everyone in our community.

“Currently in our lab, with backlog included, it takes about 2-3 months to get results for violent crime. For non-violent crime it takes about 8 months.”

Jessica Hanna,
KCPD Senior DNA Analyst

As cities around the country struggle with budget shortfalls this year, law enforcement agencies and crime labs have felt the pinch. And when crime labs don’t get the funding they need, cases go unsolved, and convictions become less likely.

Forensic Crime Labs are a vitally important asset in fighting crime. Making sure the Lab has the equipment to efficiently operate makes our community safer. Testing of evidence could clear the innocent and find true perpetrators before they have a chance to commit another crime.



“DNA is one of the most important tools we have in the search for justice.”

Major Luiz Ortiz,
KCPD Violent Crimes Division

Shortening the wait time for results from the Crime Lab would help Kansas City prevent crimes as well as hold those who commit them accountable.

In other words, it just makes sense to provide our Crime Lab with the equipment it needs.

So, you did.

Our community heard about the need for reducing the back log and stepped up with philanthropic donations from individuals at the A Call For BackUp event held in February. Together, more than \$500,000 purchased one Hamilton Robot and three EZ2

Connect Extraction Robots, all capable of automating multi-step processes in an effective, efficient manner.

The result: For the victims of violent crime and for their families,

there’s new hope. Because of your contributions, this investment in our police department will provide better evidence, sooner, finding them justice before it’s too late.

“There’s a person behind every single one of these cases. There’s a victim. There’s a person’s family. All are impacted by the delays. That’s what these backlog numbers really mean.

Backlogs in Crime Labs may be a national problem, but in our Kansas City community, we’re correcting it with the use of better, faster equipment, efficient staff, and the hope that our families who have suffered from crime don’t have to suffer longer. No one should have to wait longer than necessary to have closure. We are grateful for the community members who care and who gave. You made a big difference with your generosity. From the families we serve and our Crime Lab team, thank you.”

Director Kevin Winer, Kansas City Missouri Police Department Crime Lab

POLICE FOUNDATION OF KANSAS CITY **WELCOMES** CHIEF MABIN

Growing up in Kansas City, service to the community was easy for Interim Police Chief Joseph Mabin to see.

Some of Mabin's relatives — in teaching, firefighting, and the military — set the example, ingraining in him the importance of serving.

Still, becoming a police officer wasn't a clear-cut, direct path. Mabin, who earned a full-ride academic scholarship to Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Fla., graduated with a business administration degree. His family also owned a construction business, and Mabin had been working as an assistant project manager, when the call to serve Kansas City eventually grew too loud to resist.

"It was always in my heart to serve Kansas City," Mabin said. "I had seen my family's example and felt I could give of myself to make life safer and better here for this community."

Mabin was appointed as a police officer on November 5, 2000. His time at KCPD has included assignments in the Police Athletic League (PAL), Internal Affairs Unit, Homicide Unit, Street Crimes Undercover Squad, and the Violent Crimes Intelligence Squad.

In March of 2016, Mabin was promoted to captain and commanded KCPD's Robbery Unit and the Training Unit. He was promoted to major in January of 2020 and spent a year as the commander of Shoal Creek Patrol

Division before assuming command of the Violent Crimes Division.

In May of 2021, Mabin was promoted to deputy chief and commanded the Investigations Bureau, which consists of the Violent Crimes Division, Special Investigations Division, and the Property Crimes Division.

After his appointment to Interim Police Chief in April of 2022, Mabin made it publicly clear he wanted to reduce violent crime. Having spent years monitoring gangs, Mabin understood how violence could deteriorate the well-being of a community.

Mabin recalls one such instance that reinforced his cause. Mabin and fellow officers learned of an ex-boyfriend who had broken into his girlfriend's home and held her father at gunpoint, terrorizing him. Using surveillance resources and acting quickly, Mabin and his unit arrested the ex-boyfriend.

"I'm convinced he would have killed her had we not intervened," Mabin recalled. "Knowing that inspires me."

When not leading the nearly 1,700 department members, Mabin relaxes with family, with exercise, and with literature.

Mabin used to compete in mixed martial arts (MMA) and boxing. Nowadays, he runs.

"It's a stress reliever," Mabin said. "If you're a police officer, you need to be



ready to intervene. Exercise also helps improve an officer's mental well-being."

Even in the best of times, policing is a unique and taxing challenge. That's why books supplement Mabin's exercise to help him stay focused and healthy.

Mabin recently read "Man's Search For Meaning" by Viktor Frankl, an account of Frankl's time in a Nazi concentration camp. Frankl's book is well known for helping one find purpose during times of adversity. Currently, Mabin is reading "No Easy Day" by Mark Owen, a Navy Seal account of the Bin Laden raid.

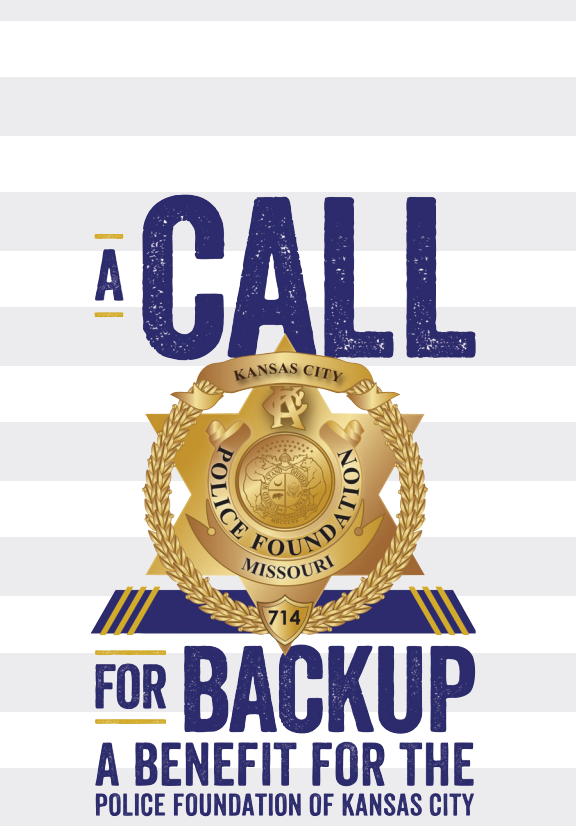
As the Board of Police Commissioners conducts a national search for the next Police Chief, it's unknown how long Mabin will serve in the interim role. When that time comes, Mabin plans to assist the next chief transition into the role as easy as possible.

"I will help, and then I will return to Deputy Chief of the Investigations Bureau," Mabin states. "Investigations are my passion."

A CALL FOR BACKUP 2-25-2022

You generously supported the 8th Annual A Call For BackUp event on February 25, 2022 by giving \$1.6 million. We are grateful that YOU answered the Call! With special gratitude to our Honorary Chairs, Ann and Frank Uryasz and Co-Chairs Wendy and Grant Burcham with Kathryn and Ned O'Connor.





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**Not Pictured*



Tye Grant, President & CEO
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The Police Foundation of Kansas City, Missouri, formed by citizens, focuses on engaging communities and assisting in reducing crime. We do so by generating funds for Kansas City, Missouri Police Department initiatives not fully supported by existing public funding. A 501c3.

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