

# A CALL FOR SERVICE

A YEAR IN REVIEW WITH THE POLICE FOUNDATION OF KANSAS CITY



Immediate Past Chair Madeline Romious



Board Chair Ned O'Connor



Police Chief Stacey Graves

Dear Foundation Supporters,

As we near the end of 2023, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support of the Police Foundation of Kansas City (PFKC). Your commitment has made a significant impact on our mission to engage our community and assist in reducing crime. As we reflect on the year gone by, we're excited to share some incredible updates and accomplishments made possible by your generosity.

*Tye Grant*

President & CEO



*Country Club Plaza taken by Board member Mark Thompson.*

## SAFEGUARDING ICONIC PLAZA LIGHTING

The Plaza Lighting Ceremony, a tradition that dates to 1930, marks the official start of the holiday season in Kansas City. Annually, the KCPD plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and security of this beloved event. We express our sincere gratitude to the 70+ KCPD officers who worked diligently to maintain a joyous atmosphere for all attendees.

There are many other special events in Kansas City that involve the KCPD's precision. On September 27th, 2023, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden visited Kansas City for six hours, with over 80 KCPD members assigned to her protection detail. Because of their support, she was able to enjoy a safe day in our great city.

Countless hours of meticulous safety planning and dedicated behind-the-scenes work lie at the foundation of these successful events, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all involved. PFKC is proud to provide advanced technology to assist the KCPD with Kansas City's important events.

## ELEVATING SAFETY WITH THE 2024 BOMB AND ARSON TRUCK

In 2023, through your generosity, we raised an astounding \$750,000 specifically dedicated to providing the Kansas City Missouri Police Department (KCPD) with a state-of-the-art bomb and arson truck. We're thrilled to announce that the truck has been purchased and is currently in the process of being built. We anticipate its completion and delivery to the KCPD in 2024, a crucial addition to their resources in ensuring the safety of our community at many high-profile events to come, putting us on the international stage.



*Current Bomb and Arson Truck*

## KCPD'S 25TH POLICE CHIEF

We are pleased to recognize Chief Stacey Graves, KCPD's first female police chief, on her one-year anniversary, December 15th. We appreciate her diligence to engage with our community for a better tomorrow.



Police Chief Stacey Graves

"I'm humbled to serve the men and women of this department and our city. I'm confident in my ability in continuing to advance the Kansas City Missouri Police Department as a progressive law enforcement agency and trusted community partner."

**- STACEY GRAVES,**  
KCPD Police Chief



KCPD Community Interaction Officers at a recent Block Party

## EMBRACING UNITY THROUGH BLOCK PARTIES

In collaboration with KCPD's Community Engagement Division, an initiative of Chief Graves, and Walmart, our commitment to community connection runs deep. This year's two block parties, touching the lives of over 500 children, go beyond mere festivities. They highlight the essential role of the police in our community, reflecting substantial progress in building trust and collaboration. These initiatives affirm that the police are not just serving but actively participating, ensuring safer, vibrant communities for all.



KCPD Community Engagement Division's Ol' Skool Block Party, sponsored by Walmart



Officer Yale Acton with K9 partner Tex



K9 Rocco



K9 Rocco on patrol!

## SNIFFING OUT CRIME, ONE TRAINING AT A TIME

KCPD's two new canine's, Tex and Rocco, were purchased by PFKC earlier this year through a partnership with the Deramus Foundation. We are pleased to announce they have both successfully completed their training and have been making positive changes in the community. Tex and Rocco started their first tour of duty on June 1st, 2023. Alongside their loyal officers, they have assisted with narcotics detection and article searches. As they continue to improve accuracy during each of their training sessions and deployments, they support the mission of KCPD every day. We are proud of you, Tex and Rocco!

## NAVIGATING GROWTH CHALLENGES

Everyone wants to feel safe. Our city is experiencing exciting growth. To facilitate this growth, it's essential to consider the need to continue to invest in our city's safety. Is our police department adequately funded for success? Do their resources allow them to compete for the best and brightest in the region? Does their current line-item within the City's Budget appropriately meet the need?

Since 2020, the number of our police officers has dropped by 27% despite the growth of our population. According to recent KCPD numbers, crime reported in Kansas City has risen by 13.7% since 2020, putting additional pressure on our police force to do more with less. For our city's development to thrive, it's crucial to address these issues and allocate resources effectively for the safety of our growing community. PFKC understands this need. As the department strives to increase its staff, we are assisting. This year we allocated funds to KCPD to support efforts in developing a more robust recruiting campaign.

SINCE 2020



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Rob Riggle

Overland Park native and retired Lieutenant Colonel Rob Riggle dedicated 23 years to the United States Marine Corps, starting at age 19. Rising through the ranks, he served in the Middle East, earning 22 medals and ribbons, including the prestigious Combat Action Ribbon. Beyond service, Riggle excelled as an actor and comedian for over two decades, with a charismatic presence in comedy classics like *The Hangover*, *Step Brothers*, *Modern Family* and *Saturday Night Live*.

A graduate of Shawnee Mission South High School, the University of Kansas and Webster University, Riggle is Kansas City's hometown hero, celebrated for his entertainment career and unwavering support of local charities, showcasing a genuine commitment to the KC community. We are thankful for him joining us, extending our heartfelt gratitude for his service, leadership and the laughter he brings to the world.



# SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 2024

FRIDAY  
**23**

Muehlebach Tower Kansas City  
City Marriott Downtown

1213 Wyandotte Street,  
Kansas City, MO

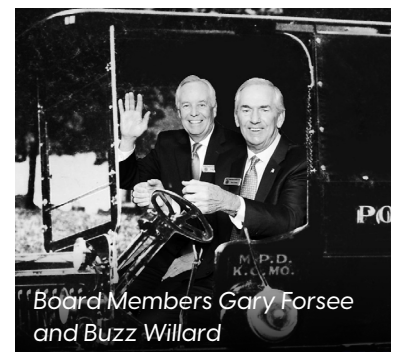
## A CALL FOR BACKUP 2024 CELEBRATE OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

We are looking forward to A Call For BackUp on February 23, 2024, as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary with an evening to highlight the men and women of KCPD and their commitment to keeping each of us safe. We are also appreciative of the work of our Board over the past 15 years of our Foundation and for starting the A Call for BackUp event. This year's chairs are: Lindsey and Terry Anderson, Jo Anne and Eric Bradley and Ali and Tim Dunn; Honorary chairs are Jean and Don Wagner. We appreciate the dedication of the work of our chairs and steering committee. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities contact us below.

### MORE INFORMATION



Emcee Abby Eden



Board Members Gary Forsee and Buzz Willard

# ACHIEVING REMARKABLE PROGRESS

Each year we continue to grow as an organization, and this year was no different. Thanks to the Foundation’s strategic investments in community engagement, recruitment and in cutting-edge technologies, lab advancements intended to reduce backlogs through quicker analysis of evidence, KCPD is making strides in the community in improving their efficiency rates. The return on these investments can be seen in the increased number of “community engagements” and increase in investigative ability as seen in the Department’s homicide clearance rate, which is well-above the national average.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey in 2023. Together, we are forging a path towards a safer, more connected Kansas City.

If you haven’t donated to the PFKC this year or would like to add to it, click below.

**DONATE NOW**



**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.

Have you ever thought about remembering the Police Foundation of Kansas City with a gift in your estate plan? Call Tye Grant for further discussion at 816-389-9436.



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