7TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM
Gun Violence: Going Beyond Thoughts and Prayers
Monday, October 12, 2020
Virtual

AGENDA
9:00 - 9:15  WELCOME
Judy Sherry, President of Grandparents Against Gun Violence
9:15 - 10:00  FAITH PANEL
Rabbi Doug Alpert, Congregation Kol Ami; Reverend Tom Are, Village Presbyterian Church; Reverend Modest Miles, Morningstar Missionary Baptist Church

10:00 - 10:15  Q & A
Moderator: Robyn Thomas, Executive Director Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

10:15 - 10:30  BREAK

10:30 - 11:00  BUSINESS PANEL
Ken Novak, PhD UMKC professor discussing the role of gun violence on business; Chris Goode, owner & CEO Ruby Jean’s Juicery

11:00 - 11:15  Q & A
Moderator: Ian Cummings, breaking news editor at The Kansas City Star, currently leading The Star’s Missouri Gun Violence Project, in partnership with the nonprofit Report for America.

11:15 - 11:30  BREAK

11:30 - 12:00  Government Panel
Kevin McManus Mayor Pro Tem, KCMO; Jerry Stogsdill, KS House of Representatives

12:12:15  Q & A
Moderator: Ian Cummings

12:15 - 12:30  CLOSING REMARKS
Mayor Quinton Lucas, Kansas City, MO

SPEAKER BIOS

Rabbi Douglas Alpert
Congregation Kol Ami
Rabbi Alpert is a life-long Kansas City resident, and completed his rabbinic studies at the Academy for Jewish Religion in Riverdale New York. He was ordained in May, 2002 and was the rabbinic intern at Congregation Ohev Sholom in Kansas City for three years. He holds a Masters in Judaic Studies from the Siegal College of Jewish Studies in Cleveland, Ohio. He is also an attorney, and served as the executive director of the Kansas City Jewish Commission and legal counsel for the International Association of Jazz Educators.

Reverend John Modest Miles
Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
Reverend John Modest Miles was born in Magnolia, Arkansas. He received his B.S. from Arkansas Baptist College, his M. ED. degree from Central Mississippi College, attended the Midwest Theological Seminary, and received an Honorary D.D. degree from Western Baptist Bible College. He has been pastor at churches in Los Angeles, Detroit, Little Rock, prior to coming to Kansas City.

Kevin McManus
Mayor Pro Tem Kansas City Missouri
Kevin McManus represents Kansas City’s 6th District, which is the same district where he was born and raised. He was first elected to the City Council in 2015. After his re-election in 2019, Mayor Quinton Lucas appointed Kevin to serve as the Mayor Pro Tem. Kevin also serves as a member of the Finance, Governance and Public Safety Committee.

Ken Novak PhD
Professor, UMKC
Dr. Novak is currently a Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His research and teaching focuses on issues related to policing in the United States and crime prevention strategies, and he has published scientific research articles on racial profiling, the exercise of police discretion, and citizens’ attitudes toward the police. He served as co-PI for the KC No Violence Alliance (NoVA), and currently serves at the co-PI for Kansas City’s Smart Policing Initiative focusing on crime prevention in violent hot spots.

Jerry Stogsdill
Kansas House of Representatives
Jerry has represented the people of the 21st District in the Kansas House of Representatives since he was first elected in 2016. As a resident of Prairie Village for more than 30 years, Jerry knows the people of the 21st District and passionately represents their interests in Topeka. He has also earned an outstanding reputation for his comprehensive and year-round program of constituent services.

Robyn Thomas
Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
Robyn Thomas joined Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence as executive director in 2006. Robyn supervises the organization’s work drafting and defending safer gun laws, as well as educating legislators about evidence-based gun policy. She has testified in Congress and before state and local lawmakers as an expert witness on gun laws and the American gun violence epidemic.
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