

AGENDA
Meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") of
The Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

Date: April 13, 2025 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: 2657 Independence Avenue, Kansas City, MO. The meeting will be held on site with social distancing measures in place; directors and all interested parties may also attend remotely. Please call 816-215-6813 to receive a link or to be added by telephone.

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Call to Order | Chairman Jerry Potocnik |
| 2. | Board Minutes | Secretary Manny Abarca IV |
| 3. | Board Committee Reports | |
| | Executive | Jerry Potocnik |
| | Resource Development | Andrea Wilt |
| | Planning & Development | Bobbi Baker |
| | Governmental Affairs | Manny Abarca IV |
| | Membership | Jerry Potocnik |
| | CID Reports | CID District Manager Bobbi Baker |
| | Historic Northeast Events | |
| | Chamber Reports | Events Director Rebecca Koop |
| | CEO/President Report | Bobbi Baker |
| 4. | Action Items | |
| | Budget for May 2025-April 2026 | |
| 5. | New Business | |
| 6. | Old Business | |
| 7. | Adjournment | |

Vision: The Chamber is the go-to place for Northeast businesses, a clearing house for collaborative problem-solving. It is the gatekeeper and advocate for plans and projects that generate economic and social vitality for Northeast businesses, institutions and neighborhoods. It is the mentor of tomorrow's leaders and the guardian of the Northeast's historic and cultural assets.

Mission: The Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce strives to be a financially sound, well-managed business association that enhances the quality of life and economic competitiveness in the historic, contemporary and multi-cultural Northeast district of Kansas City, Missouri. The Chamber works through partnership and collaboration to comprehensively serve the diverse entrepreneurial, cultural, artistic, commercial, industrial and civic interests of its members. The Chamber seeks as members caring volunteers eager to promote the general well-being and economic growth of the Northeast community.

COMMUNITY COMPASSION



INDEPENDENCE AVENUE STRONG



YOUR LAST PRESENTATION

→ NEKC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE CID

02/19/2025 ←
01/16/2025

THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE



PRESENTED BY: BOBBI BAKER, NEKC CHAMBER PRESIDENT/CEO & IA CID MANAGER

APRIL 23, 2025

- A
G
E
N
D
A**
- RECENT EVENTS
 - STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT
 - CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP
 - HAPPENING ON THE AVENUE
 - INDEPENDENCE AVE CID & TITAN REPORTS
 - TITAN 'FOUR CORNERS'
 - THE NE NEWSPAPER'S "CID-CENTERFOLDS"
 - THE EGG EVENTS
 - UPCOMING EVENTS

The 'EGG' & NE News Office



NEKC Chamber, IA CID & HNE Office





STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT REBATE (SIR) PROGRAM 2025

BUSINESS: Spalitto's Pharmacy **DATE:** 1/21/2025
LOCATION: 3801 INDEPENDENCE, KCMO
PROJECT: Wash exterior, repair stucco where needed, hand-paint exterior sign, paint exterior



| RECEIPTS | AMOUNT | NOTES |
|--|------------|-------|
| Check # | \$7,500.00 | |
| Check # | | |
| CC | \$0.00 | |
| CC | \$0.00 | |
| | \$7,500.00 | |
| | /2 | |
| SIR program is 50% of cost up to \$5,000 | \$3,750.00 | |
| Reimbursement Amount: | \$3,750.00 | |



BEFORE

INDEPENDENCE
AVENUE
CID



AFTER



2025 NEKC CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Ambassador of Business Communications Report

TOTAL MEMBERS TO DATE: 193



KC's INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE

JANUARY: 1 New & 40 Renewals

NEW: 1

Nomad Develops

RENEW: 40

Las Tres Palmas

Legacy Tire Shop

Taco Express

Taqueria El Torito I

Taqueria El Torito III

Taqueria El Torito Restaurant

Spalitto's Pharmacy

Elviria's Cake

Yasmeen Café

San Antonio Market

La Jarochita Express

Al Rahman Mediterranean Market

Sharif Store

Baraka Market

Charrito's Plaza Restaurant

Love Expression

JH Beauty Supply

Cricket Wireless

Fresh Market / El Mercado Fresco

El Mercado Fresco

El Mercado Fresh – 5901 Indep Ave

D & R Diversified

Independence Blvd Christian Church

AI – Hahal, LLC

Express Nails Salon

El Paso Del Norte

D' Angeles Beauty Salon

Taqueria Mexico II Restaurant

Dr. J. Edward Kendrick

Mika & Sons Inc.

Gringo Logo Market

Taqueria Mexico II Restaurant

Lit Smoke Shop

Show Me KC Schools

El Rey de las Baleadas

Top Notch Liquor

Hernandez Income Tax Service

Where There's A Wilt

FEBUARY: 1 New & 9 Renewals

NEW: 1

Makan LECET

RENEW: 9

Mogadisho Market

Total Wireless Indep Ave

Total Wireless Saint John Ave

La Cubana Cuban Restaurant

Frutopia

Hector's Auto Repair

Premium Wireless

Balaane Business Center

Ebenezer Shop

MARCH: 1 New & 17 Renewals

NEW: 1

University Health

RENEW: 17

Custom Truck One Source

Pho Bowl

Adco Litho Plate

The Salvation – Army

Liberty Tax

Sam Davis Agency

Kansas City University

Urban Hikes Kansas City

Kansas City Care Clinic

World Direct Link

Lina Nails

Opes Commercial Real Estate

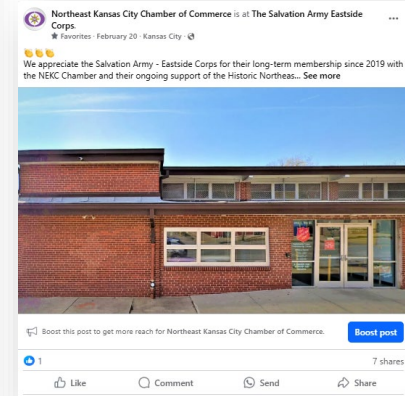
Mark One Electric

Ralph C. Johnson & Company

The Don Bosco Centers

CSL Plasma

Holy Rosary Credit Union





4TH DISTRICT SMALL BUSINESS

CASH MOB



FLASH SALES TO SUPPORT AND BOOST LOCAL BUSINESSES

8:30 - 9:30 AM
Tuesday, FEB. 25
at Café Ca Phe coffee shop
916 E 5th St, Kansas City, MO 64106

Cash Mobs are a great way to support local businesses in our community. Join Councilman Crispin Rea for coffee as we support small businesses.

RSVP to Araceli Magaña at araceli.magana@kcmo.org.

SPONSORED BY
Councilman Crispin Rea
Columbus Park Neighborhood Association

Columbus Park



SPONSORED BY

4TH DISTRICT AT LARGE

CRISPIN REA

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Attendees: 20+



TASTY TOPIC TALK NEKC CHAMBER LUNCHEON



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025
ATTENDEES: 22 GUESTS + 5 STAFF

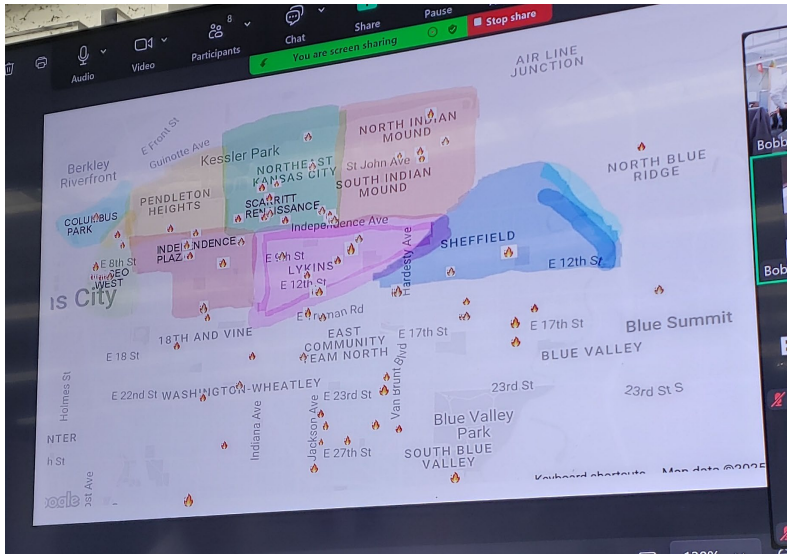
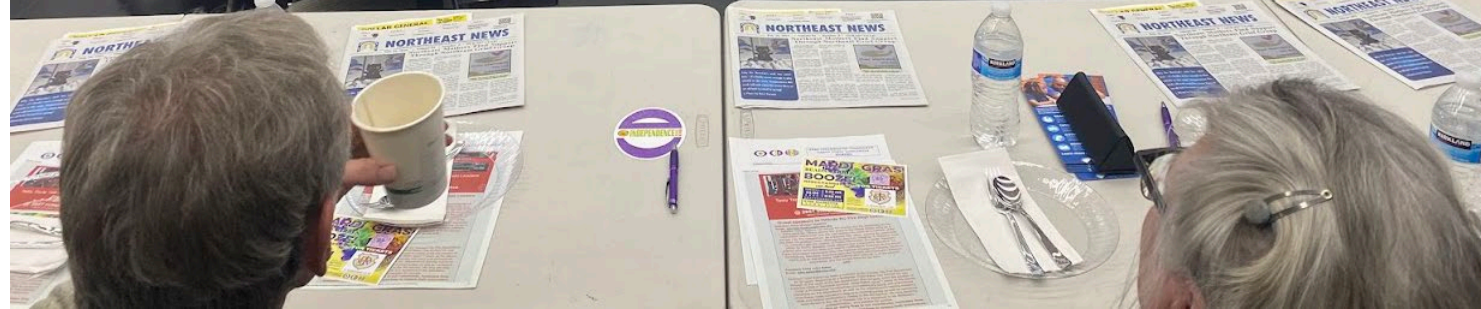
SPEAKERS: 1) Battalion Chief, Michael Hopkins
2) Assistant Chief, John Baker

TOPIC: Controlling Fires in Northeast KC



Chamber Luncheon Program Addresses Upswing
in Local Fires

Darri Partain • Community • News February 26, 2025





Independence Avenue Community Improvement District
★ Favorites · January 31 ·

ST JOSEPH TABLE
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
AMERICAN SONS OF COLUMBUS
AND
AMERICAN DAUGHTERS OF COLUMBUS

MARCH 2, 2025

Location: 2415 Independence Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64124
816-483-7201

Pasta Milanese and Pasta with Tomato Sauce
Cookies and Cannolis available for purchase

DONATION: \$10

**CHAMBER & IA CID
STAFF ENJOY...**

**FEAST DAY OF
ST JOSEPH**

**SONS OF COLUMBUS
2415 INDEPENDENCE**

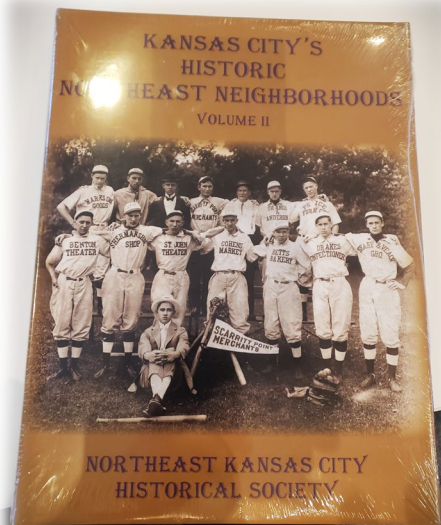




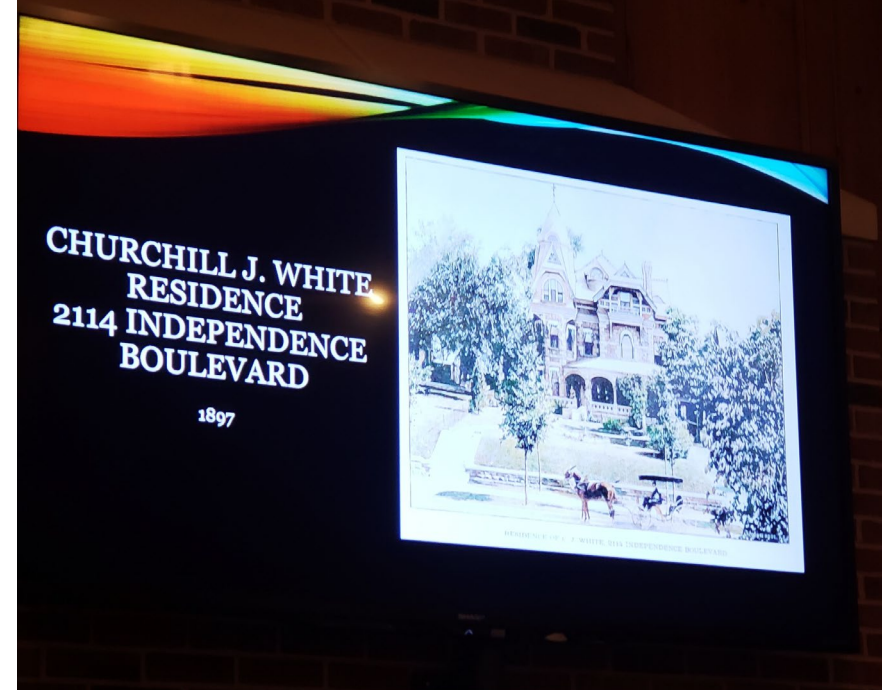
HISTORIC MANSIONS ALONG THE AVENUE

\$50

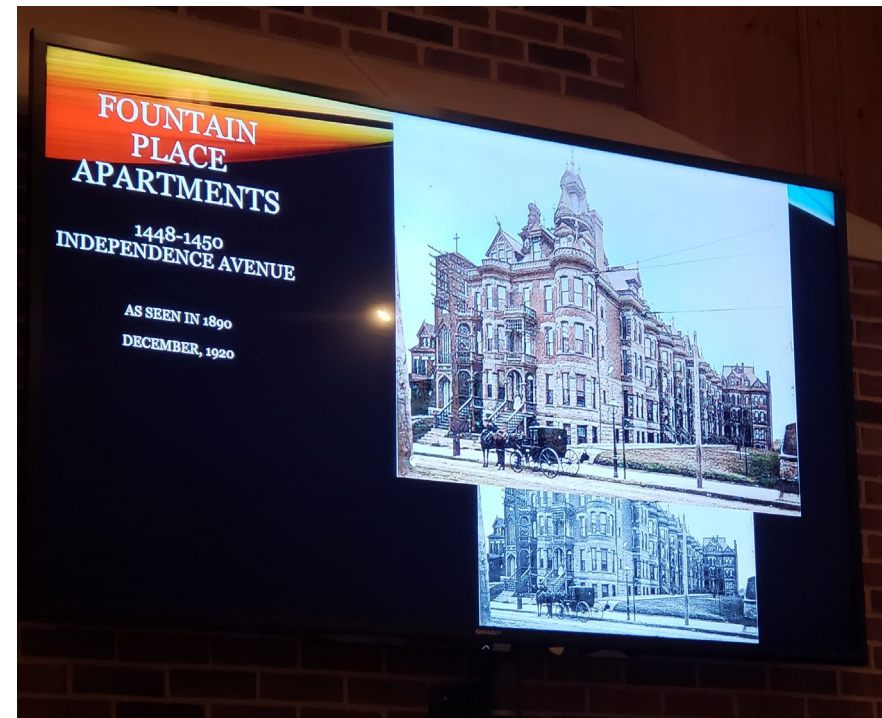
March 15, 2025



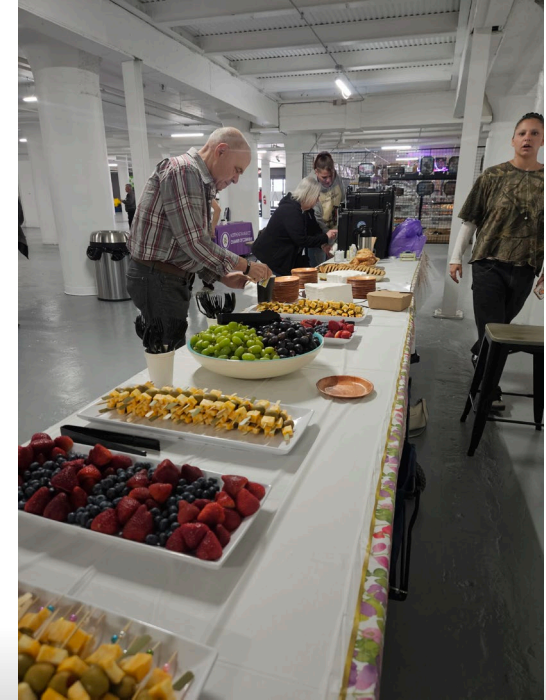
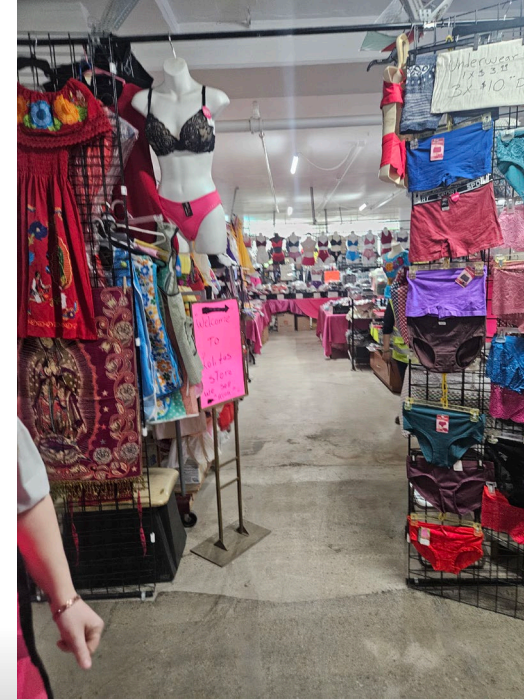
AUTHOR: KENT DICUS



INDEPENDENCE AVE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COFFEE, CULTURE, &... CONVERSATION



TOPIC: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
FEATURED GUEST: Rita Strickland, BD Manager

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

ATTENDEES: 18 + 5 STAFF

6200 St. John Ave

CUBEWORX

UMKC: URBAN PLANNING STUDENT INTERNSHIP FAIR

If you are interested in:

- DRAWING
- DESIGN
- CONSTRUCTION
- MAKING THINGS
- TECHNOLOGY
- SUSTAINABILITY
- IMPROVING LIVES
- HOW THINGS WORK
- EFFICIENCY
- ORGANIZATION
- BEING CREATIVE
- BEING ENTREPRENEURIAL
- BEING MOTIVATED

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
might be right for you

It can lead to careers in:

- PRODUCT DESIGN
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION
- BUILDING DESIGN
- BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
- INTERIOR DESIGN
- EXHIBITION DESIGN
- ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
- BUILDING PRODUCT SALES
- HEALTH & LIFE SAFETY POLICIES
- DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
- BUILDING MANAGEMENT
- GAMING DEVELOPMENT
- RETAIL & RESTAURANT DESIGN
- TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- DESIGN MARKETING
- FURNITURE DESIGN
- ILLUSTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
URBAN PLANNING + DESIGN
UMKC

If you are interested in:

- CITIES & COMMUNITIES
- REVITALIZING CITIES
- MAPS
- TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE
- MAKING "PEOPLE" PLACES
- PARKS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- BIKING
- HOME/LAND SECURITY
- REAL ESTATE
- NEIGHBORHOODS
- CREATING COMMUNITIES
- URBAN LIFE
- HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS
- INNOVATION

URBAN PLANNING + DESIGN
might be right for you

It can lead to careers in:

- URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
- ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- REAL ESTATE
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- URBAN DESIGN
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION
- GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- CITY MANAGEMENT
- URBAN PLANNING
- REGIONAL PLANNING
- HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
- SUSTAINABILITY

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
URBAN PLANNING + DESIGN
UMKC

If you are interested in:

- PEOPLE & CITIES
- NEIGHBORHOODS
- HOUSING
- GLOBALIZATION
- LOCAL BUSINESS
- CITY GOVERNMENT
- URBAN CULTURE
- GEOGRAPHY
- DIVERSITY
- CITY LIFE
- SOCIOLOGY
- STATISTICS

URBAN STUDIES
might be right for you

It can lead to careers in:

- AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- PRE-LAW
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZING
- NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
- CITY POLICY
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- PRE-SOCIAL WORK
- REAL ESTATE
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZING
- ELECTED OFFICIAL
- STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
- CITY MANAGER

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
URBAN PLANNING + DESIGN
UMKC



MARCH 14, 2025

**School of Urban Planning & Design
9 STUDENTS INTERVIEWED**



MARCH 15, 2025

KC Current Soccer VIP Brunch & Home Opener

IA CID's Resource Manager
Laura Birdsong with MO House
Rep (District 19) Wick Thomas

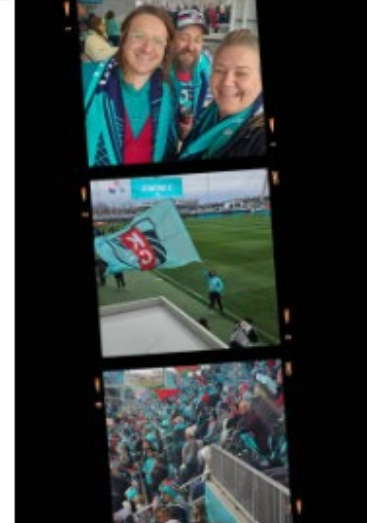


Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

★ Favorites · March 15 at 12:57 PM · 🌐



Let's go [KC Current](#) !!! Thank you for the invite to the VIP brunch and home opener! Your staff was great 😊... See more



Boost this post to get more reach for Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Boost post



You, Tally Rivera and 5 others

1 comment 2 shares



Like



Comment



Send



Share



SAFETY & SECURITY MEETINGS

MARCH 20, 2025 GENERAL TOPICS

- 1) The 3700 Independence Avenue business strip and TITAN & KCPD's responses was the focal point.
- 2) The positive attributes of using CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) strategy was discussed.
- 3) Repeat Nuisance Offenders (RNO) problem & solutions through the Urban CID Alliance program (shared database).
- 4) KCPD will be presenting information about the public safety tax renewal at the April 3rd forum here at the NEKC Chamber.
- 5) Mattie Rhodes is working to expand their safety initiative into the Independence Plaza neighborhood.

GENERAL ATTENDEES

- 1 KCPD Officer
- 1 City Prosecutor
- 1 Business Owner
- 4 TITAN Angels
- 6 CID Office Staff
- 1 Mattie Rhodes Representative



TASTY TOPIC TALK NEKC CHAMBER LUNCHEON



THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2025
ATTENDEES: 18 ATTENDEES + 5



SPEAKERS: 1) Jonathan Arnold,
Arnold Development Group
2) Carmen Chopp,
Nomad Develops
TOPIC: HARDESTY LOFTS DEVELOPMENT

LUNCH PROVIDED BY: Las Tres Palmas



ad ARNOLD DEVELOPMENT



NOMADDEVELOPS
ACQUIRE • DEVELOP • ACTIVATE



Make sure to join tonight's [Public Safety Tax Renewal Forum](#) located at the NEKC Chamber office, 2657 Independence Avenue starting at 6pm. There will be an opportunity ... See more



Public Safety Tax Renewal Forum

APRIL 3, 2025
ATTENDEES: 8 + 3 STAFF

GUEST SPEAKER:
KCPD MAJOR, JOSH HEINEN



COFFEE, CULTURE, &... CONVERSATION



NOMADDEVELOPS
ACQUIRE · DEVELOP · ACTIVATE

TOPIC: VENDOR FORUM, Hardesty Lofts Marketing
SPEAKER: Cofounders of Nomad Develops,
Carmen Chopp & Bobby Keys

MARCH 10, 2025

ATTENDEES: 15 + 5 STAFF



La Pina Loca
Restaurant



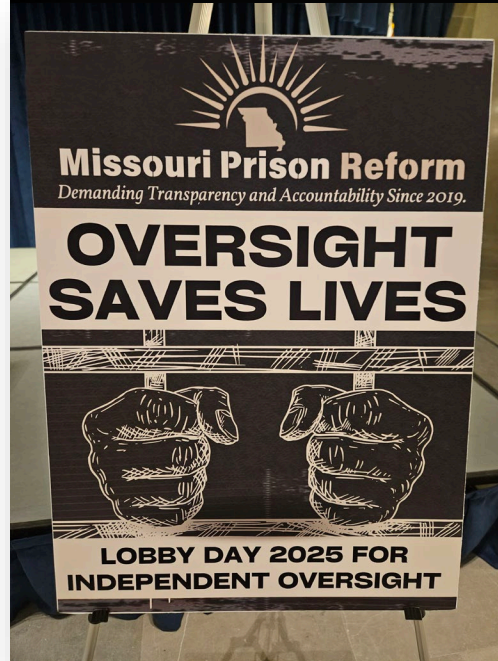


MO House Rep (District 19):
← **WICK THOMAS**

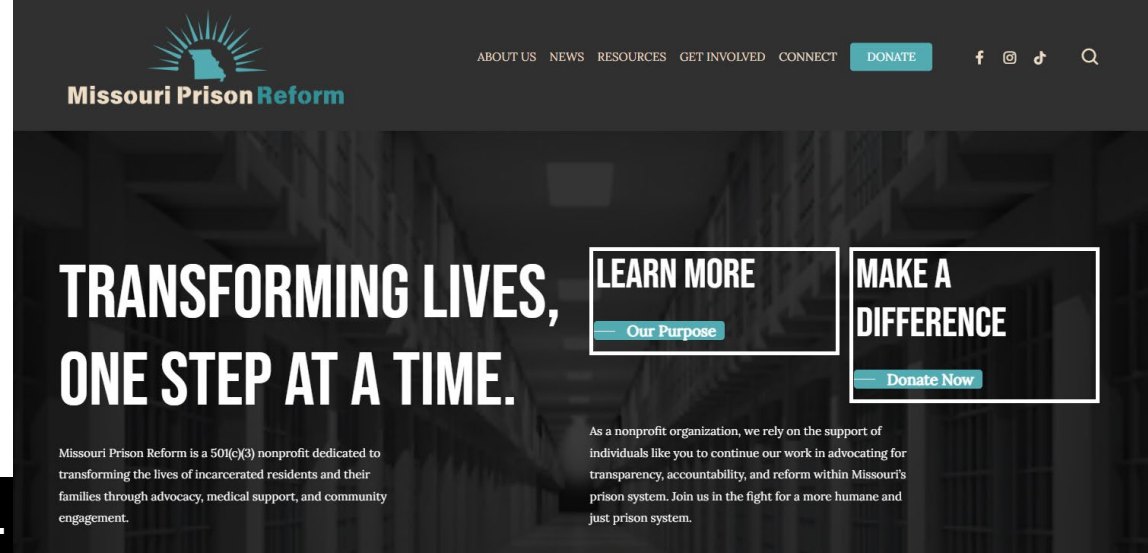
Independence Ave CID's
Resource Manager:
LAURA BIRDSONG



LOBBY DAY MO STATE CAPITOL



APRIL 2, 2025
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS





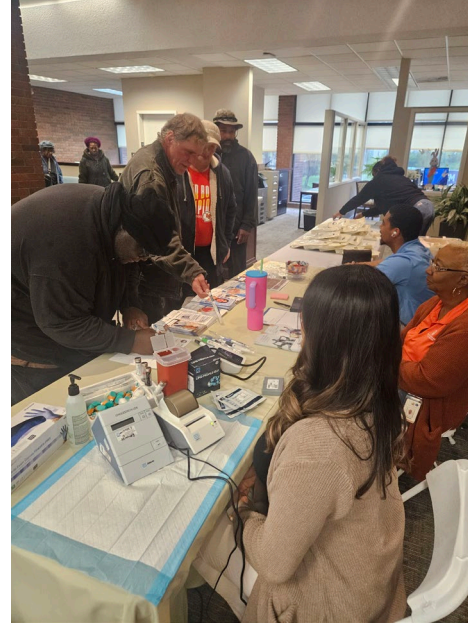
**cb central bank
of kansas city**

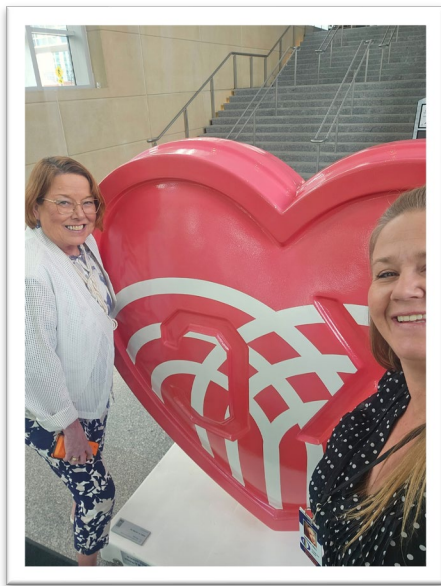
2301 INDEPENDENCE BLVD, KCMO

Health & Wellness Event

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

IA CID STAFF ATTEND





← LEFT TO RIGHT

CHARLIE PASSANTINO
IA CID Chairperson

BOBBI BAKER
IA CID District Manager

LAURA BIRDSONG
IA CID Resource Manager

JOE PRIVITERA
Mark One Electric Rep



TASTY TOPIC TALK NEKC CHAMBER LUNCHEON

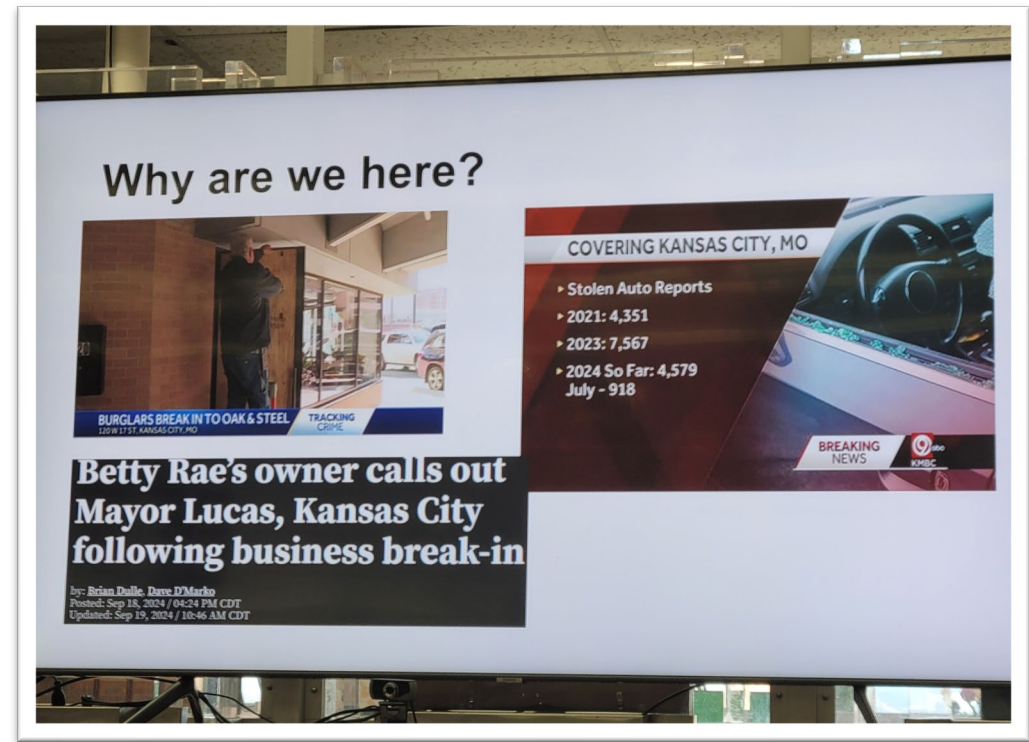


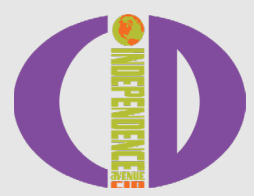
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2025
ATTENDEES: 18 ATTENDEES + 5 STAFF

SPEAKERS: Kevin Klingenberg,
Midtown KC Now CID Manager

TOPIC: TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER
PROPOSED FOR KANSAS CITY, MO

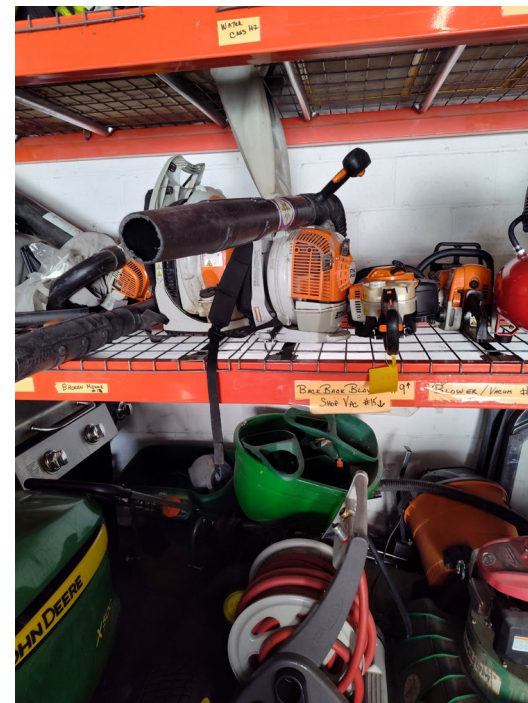
LUNCH PROVIDED BY:

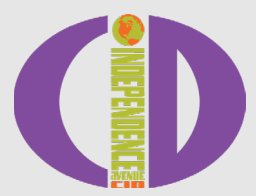




AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION 2025

EQUIPMENT READY FOR SPRING





AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION 2025

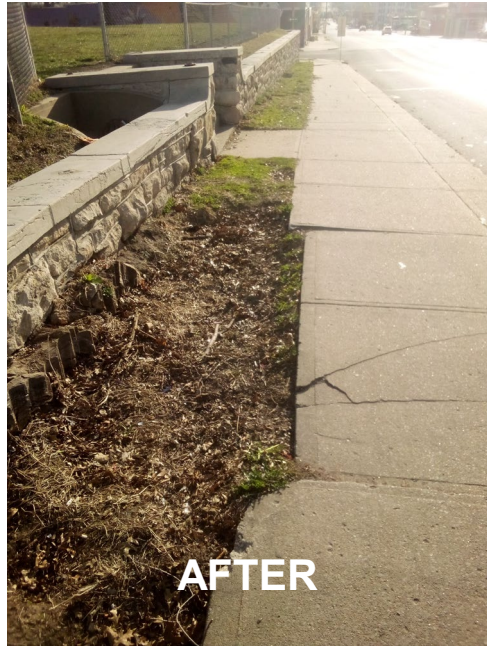
GETTING READY FOR SPRING...



URBAN STREET AMBASSADORS LUNCH & CLEAN UP...
LYKINS PARK

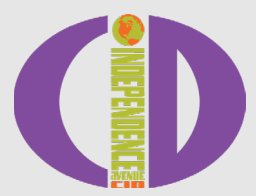


BEFORE



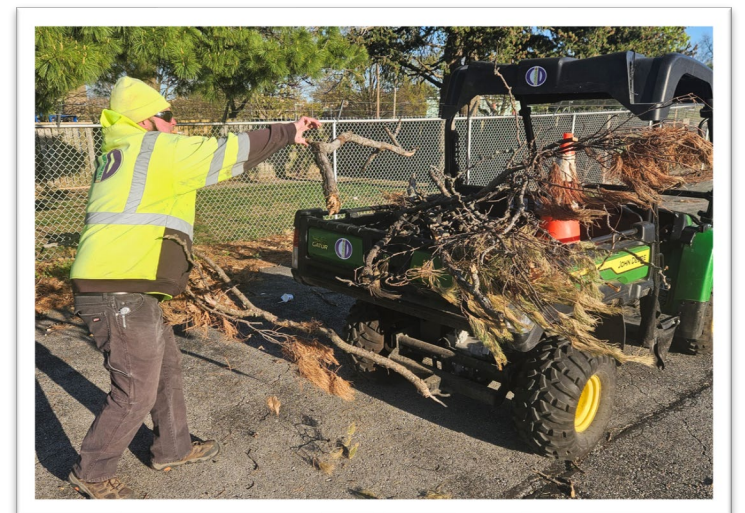
AFTER





AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION 2025

CLEANING UP MESSSES MADE...





AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION 2025

ACTIVITY ON THE AVENUE

Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
★ Favorites · February 26 · 🌐



INSTALLATION OF A COVERED BUS STOP



ELECTRIC BOX INSTALLATION

Independence Avenue Community Improvement District
★ Favorites · February 26 · 🌐
⚠️⚠️⚠️ CAUTION ⚠️⚠️⚠️ ... See more

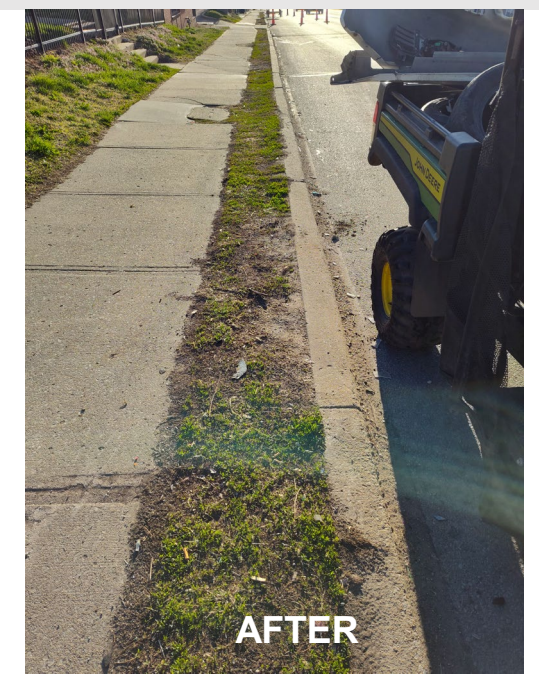
Independence Avenue Community Improvement District
★ Favorites · February 24 · 🌐
We are loving this spring weather day!!! Our Urban Steet Ambassadors are excited to be cleaning and prepping the gardens to prepare for the upcoming season!! ... See more



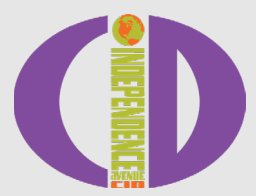
Boost this post to get more reach for Independence Avenue Community Improvement District. [Boost post](#)



BEFORE



AFTER



AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION 2025

CLEAN UP ACTIVITIES ON THE AVENUE



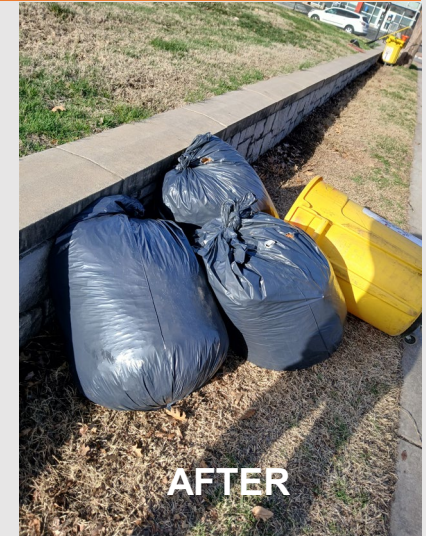
BEFORE



AFTER



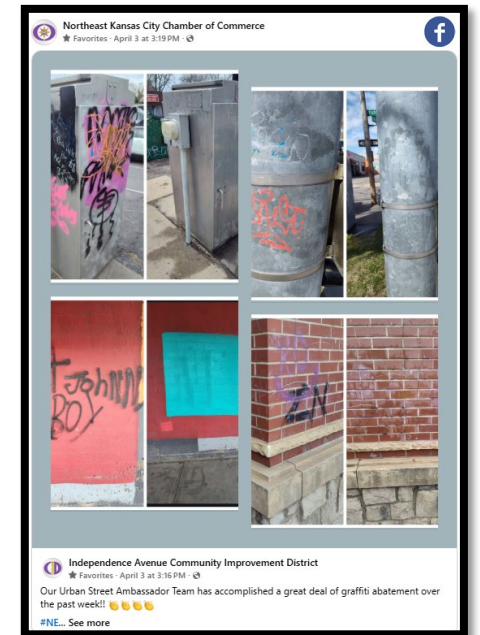
BEFORE



AFTER



TRUCK-EATING BRIDGE



NON-MUNICIPAL FUNDING AND SERVICES CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN

THE CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
AND
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

THIS CONTRACT, made and entered into this first (1st) day of May 2018 by and between **KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**, a constitutionally chartered municipal corporation of the State of Missouri, through its **CITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**, hereinafter referred to as “**CITY**”, and the **INDEPENDENCE AVENUE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**, hereinafter referred to as “**CONTRACTOR**”, consists of two parts: **PART I. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**, AND **PART II. STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**.

WITNESSETH: Consisting of seventeen (17) alleys abutting Independence Avenue to the north and south, and certain park land known as Independence Plaza Park at approximately Brooklyn and Independence Avenue/Boulevard, and other public rights-of-way as may be designated by mutual agreement of the parties.

17 ALLEYWAYS

MANAGED BY:
NEKC CHAMBER

IMPLEMENTED BY:
INDEPENDENCE AVE CID



Independence Avenue CID Alleys

1 CLEANUP: FEBRUARY 19 – APRIL 16, 2025

SPRING BEGINS



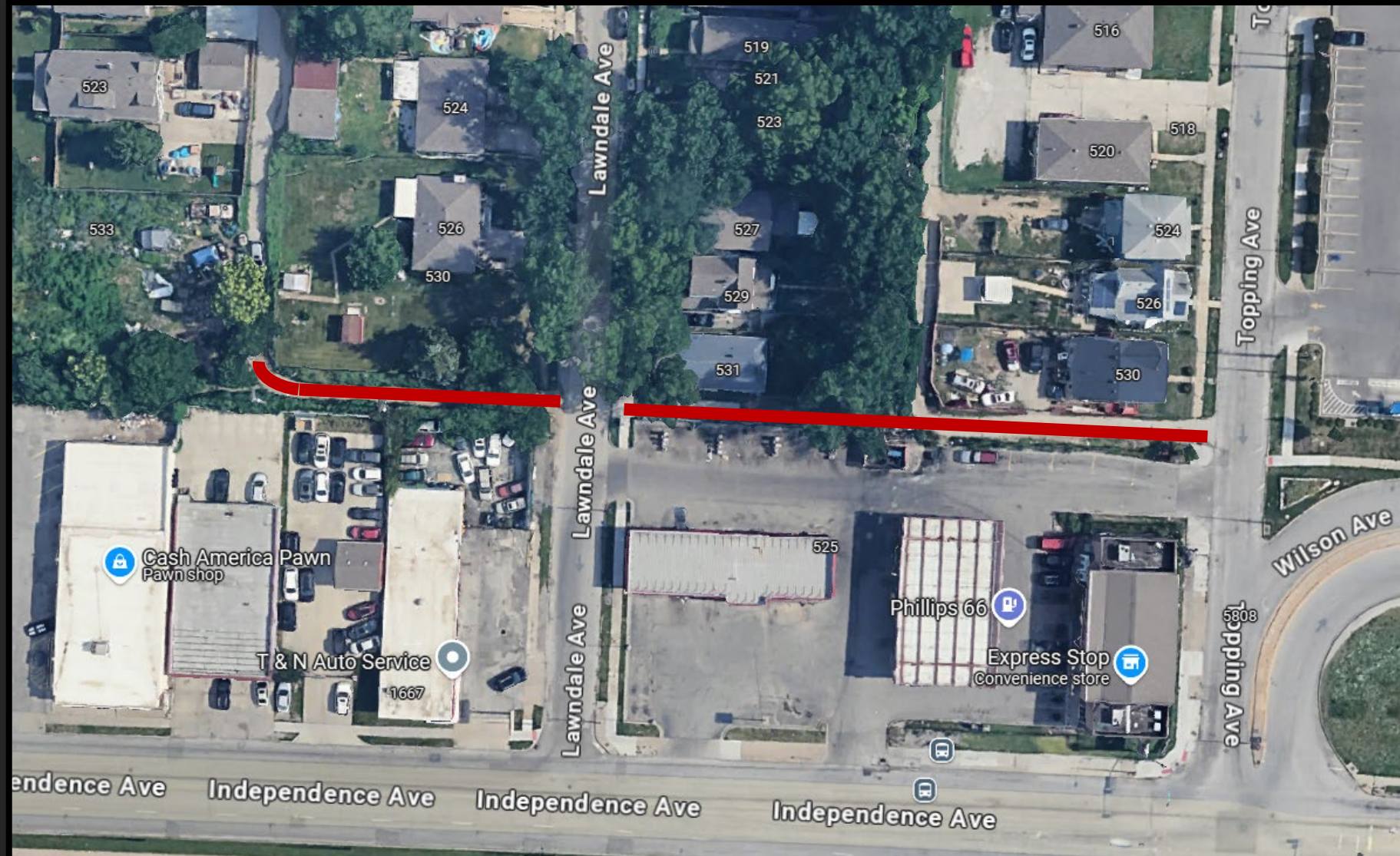
#1 ALLEYWAY CLEANUP 4/14/2025 → Topping - Lawndale - Oakley

2,200 Pounds Removed > 9 CID Crew Members > 5 Hours

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- 1) TITAN Security
- 2) Mattie Rhodes Center
- 3) Jerusalem Farms
- 4) KCPD
- 5) KC Solid Waste Division
- 6) Healing House
- 7) IA CID Staff

NOTE: The new *Urban CID Alliance Database of Repeat Nuisance Offenders (REO)* was used to communicate vital information.



#1 ALLEYWAY CLEANUP 4/14/2025 → Topping - Lawndale - Oakley

2,200 Pounds Removed > 9 CID Crew Members > 5 Hours

BEFORE



#1 ALLEYWAY CLEANUP 4/14/2025 → Topping - Lawndale - Oakley

2,200 Pounds Removed > 9 CID Crew Members > 5 Hours

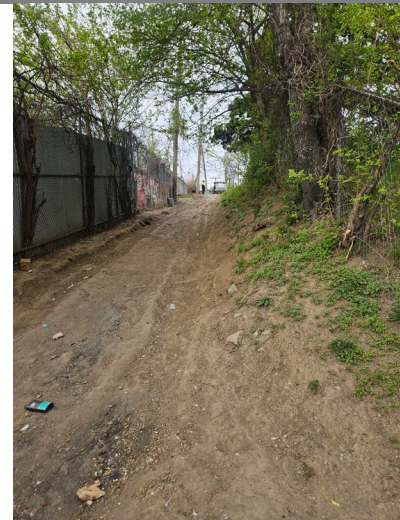
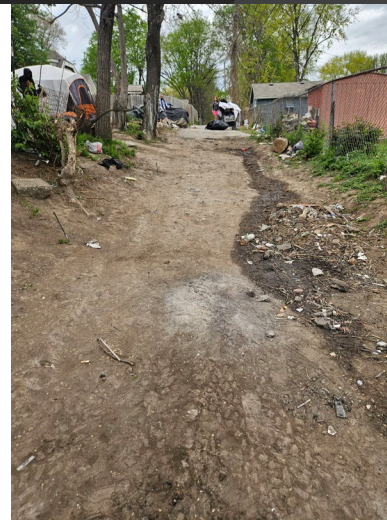
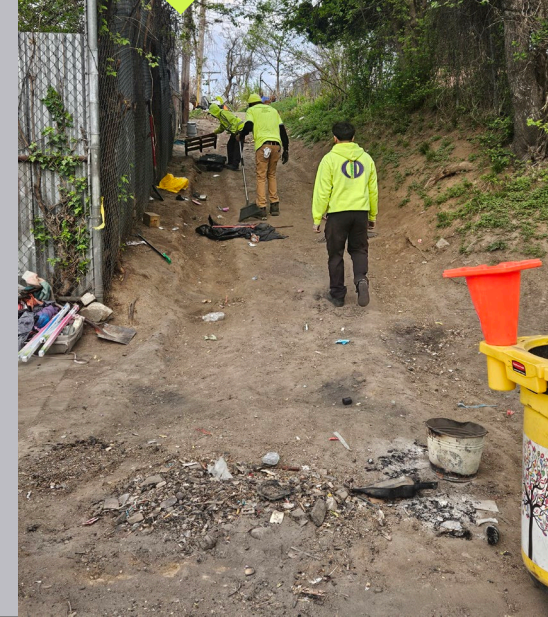
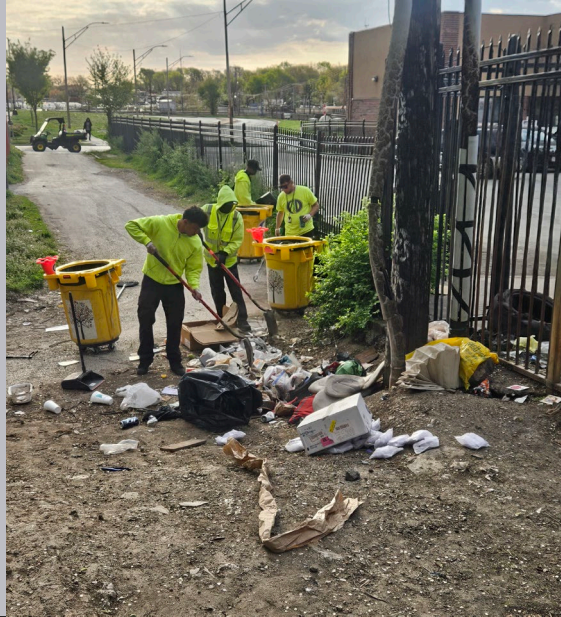
DURING



#1 ALLEYWAY CLEANUP 4/14/2025 → Topping - Lawndale - Oakley

2,200 Pounds Removed > 9 CID Crew Members > 5 Hours

AFTER



#1 ALLEYWAY CLEANUP 4/14/2025 → Topping - Lawndale - Oakley

2,200 Pounds Removed > 9 CID Crew Members > 5 Hours

AFTER



Social Media Posts
Courtesy of Molly
with Mattie Rhodes



Working alongside people
like this makes it all worth it.



This lady right here. Laura Birdsong with
NEKCC is one of a kind. These are the
moments no one else sees. She is present and
meets people exactly where they are. Praying
for safety and freedom from this life.

Come out and join us on these clean-ups. We
need more people sharing love in these
streets.

They know I don't touch the mattresses or
toilets when we're out here 🤔

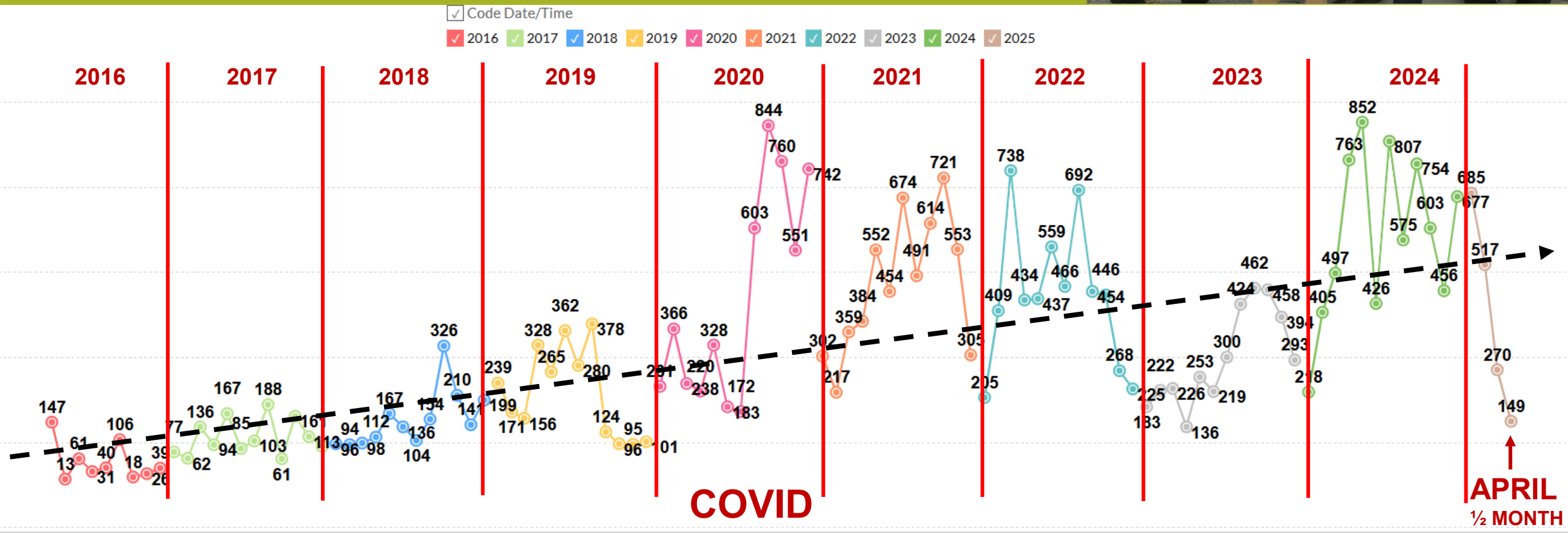


URBAN STREET AMBASSADOR (USA) REPORT



ALL ACTIVITY YEAR-TO-YEAR

| Reports This Week | Reports This Month | Reports This Year | Reports All Time (Since April 2016) |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 67 ½ WEEK | 896 ½ MONTH | 3882 | 49417 |



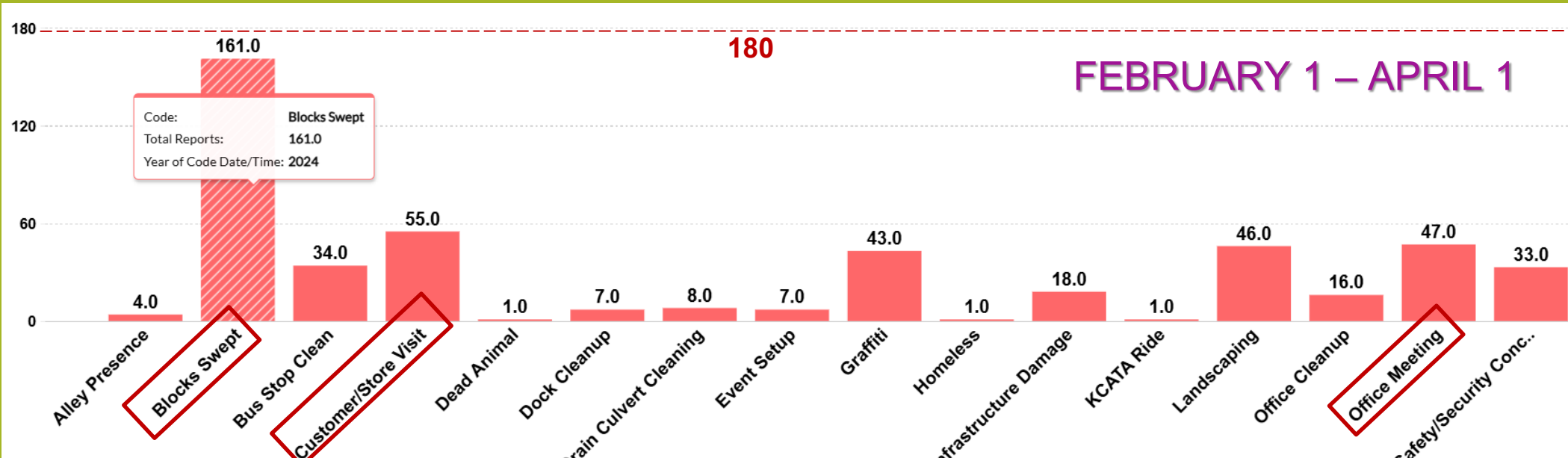
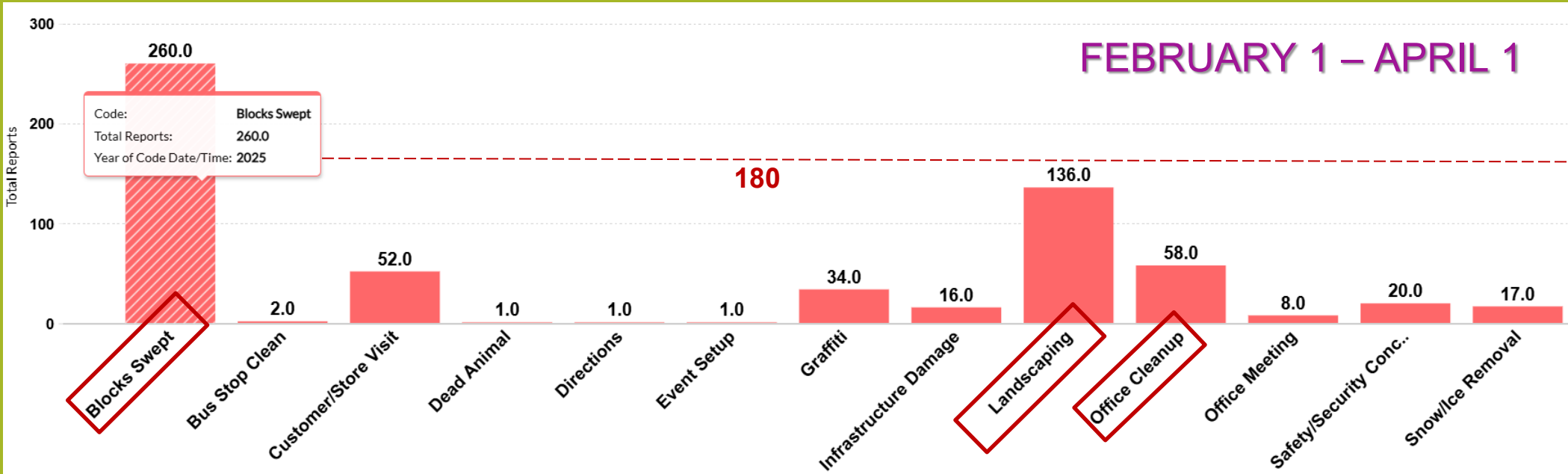
URBAN STREET AMBASSADOR (USA) REPORT



2025

ACTIVITY
DETAILS

2024



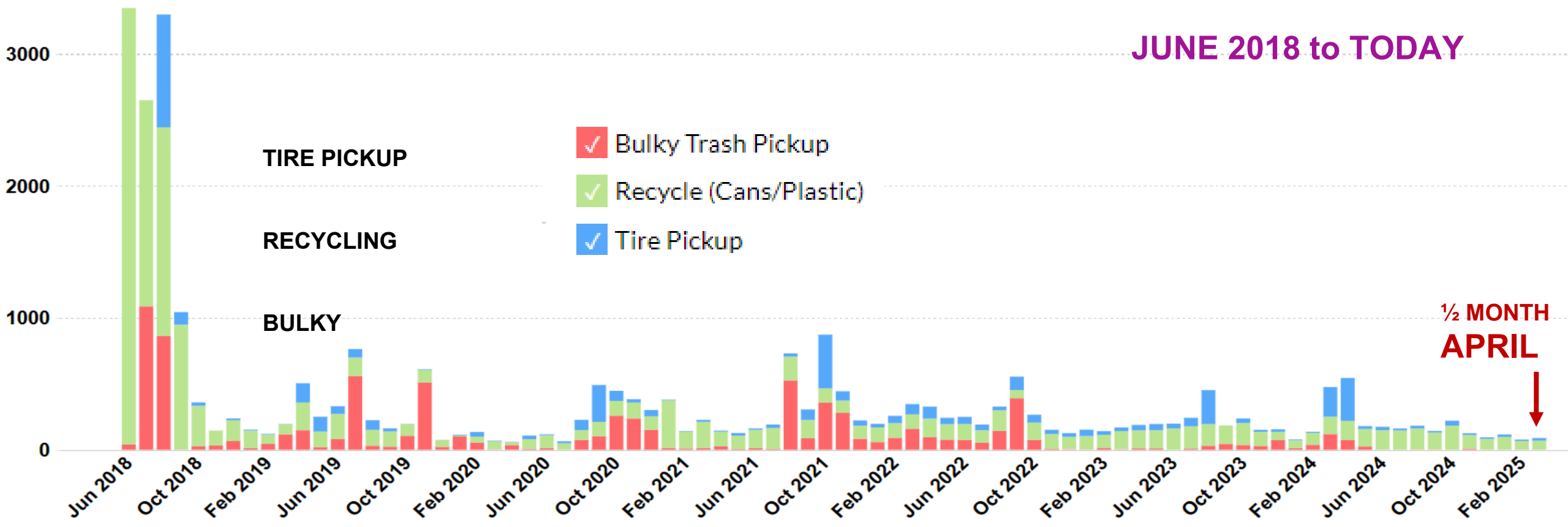
URBAN STREET AMBASSADOR (USA) REPORT



CLEAN UP YEAR-TO-YEAR



| Pounds Picked Up This Week | Pounds Picked Up This Month | Pounds Picked Up This Year | Pounds Picked Up All Time |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 12.00 | 107.00 | 518.00 | 123171.40 |
| ½ WEEK | ½ MONTH | | |



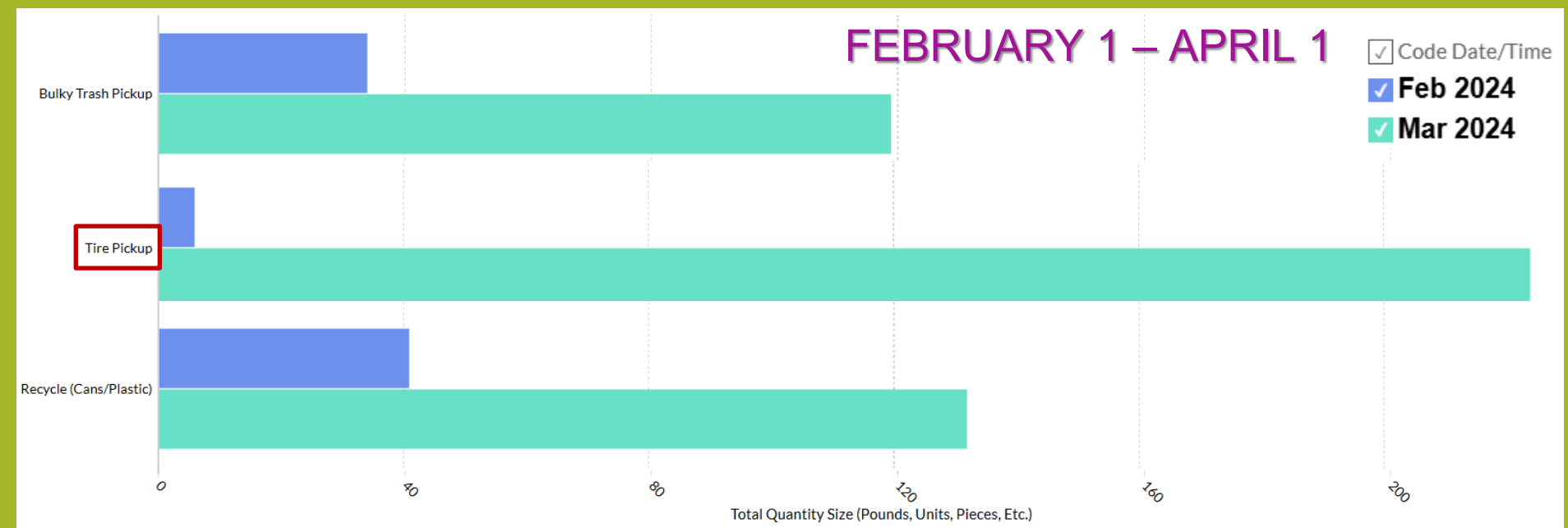
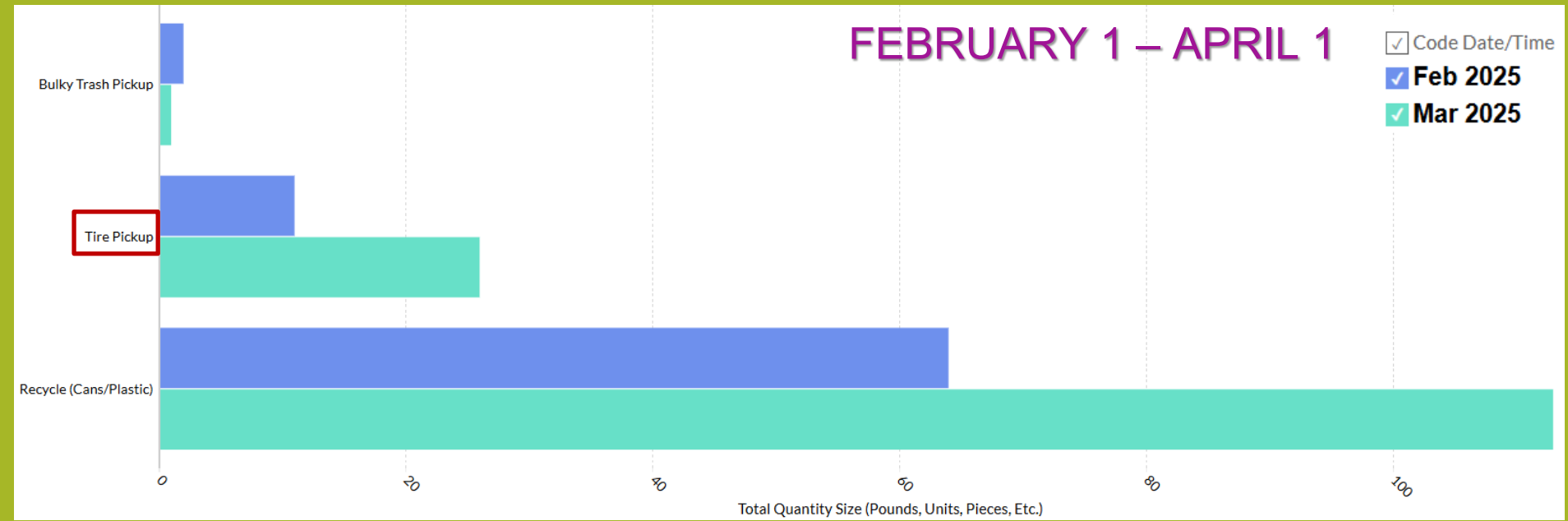
URBAN STREET AMBASSADOR (USA) REPORT



2025

CLEAN UP...
BY QUANTITY

2024

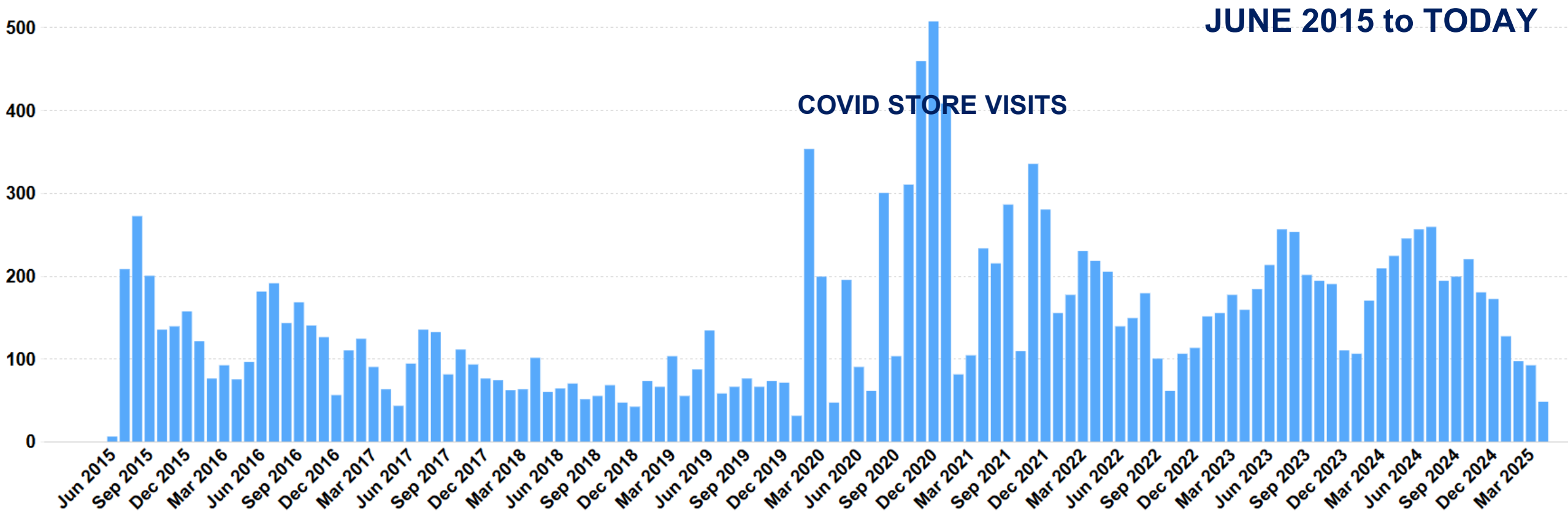




ACTIVITY YEAR-TO-YEAR



| Incidents This Week | Incidents This Month | Incidents This Year | Incidents All Time |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 17 ½ WEEK | 73 ½ MONTH | 389 | 17308 |



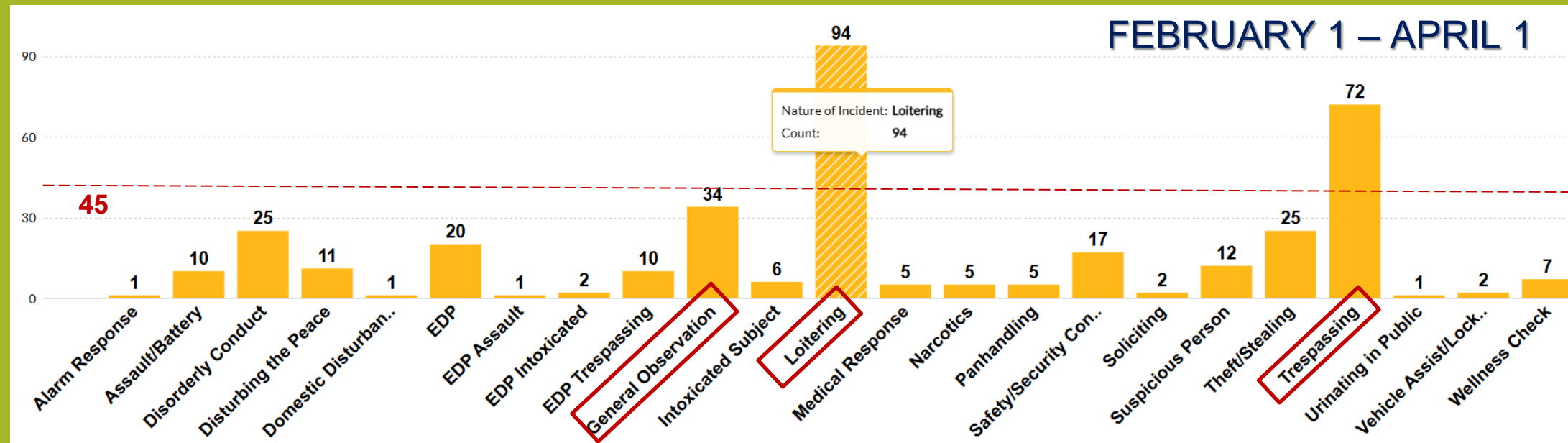
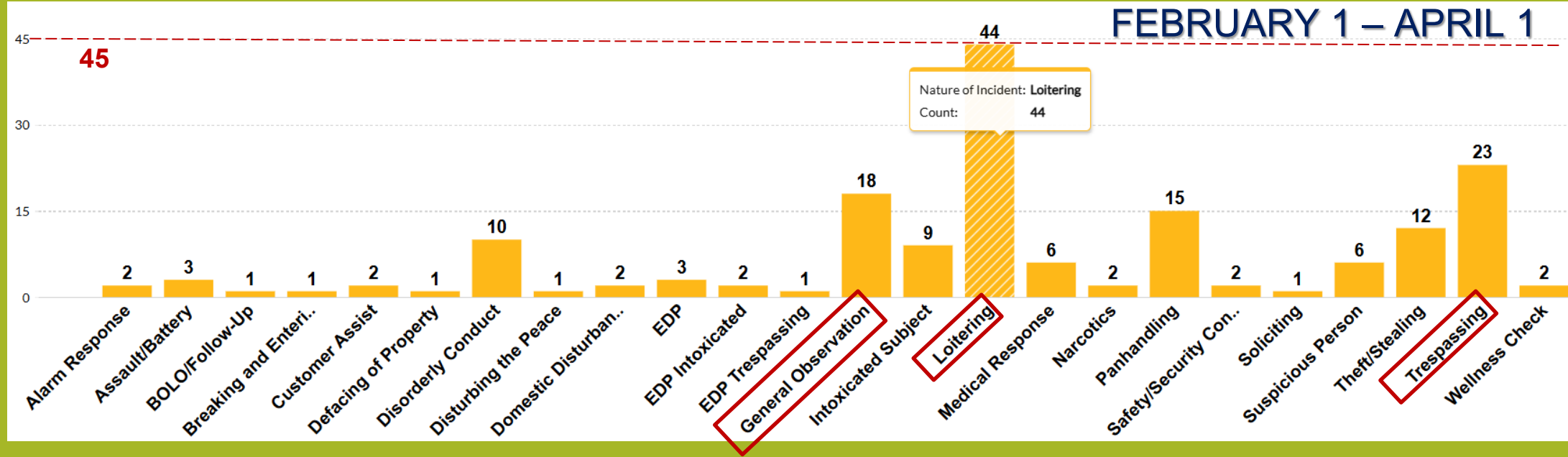
TITAN REPORT



2025

INCIDENT
COUNT...

2024



TITAN REPORT



WILSON RD VERSES INDEPENDENCE AVE

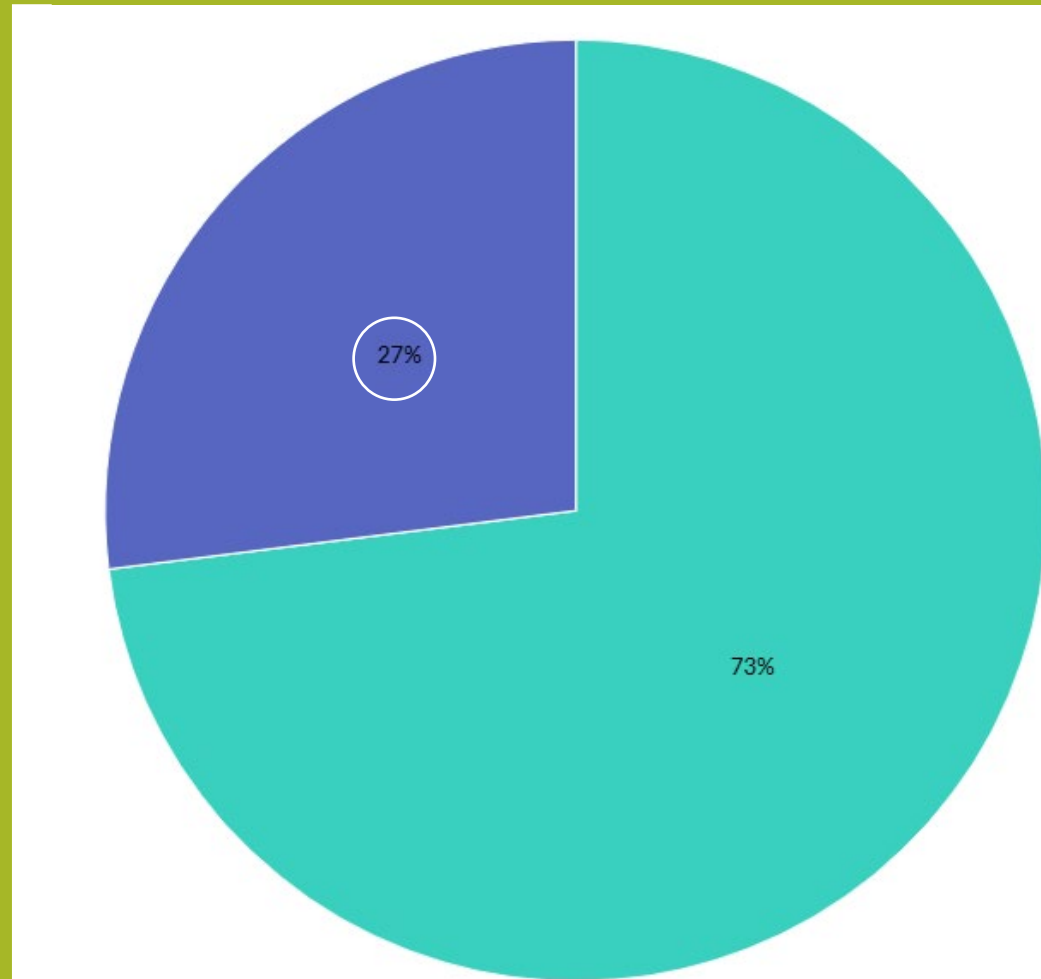
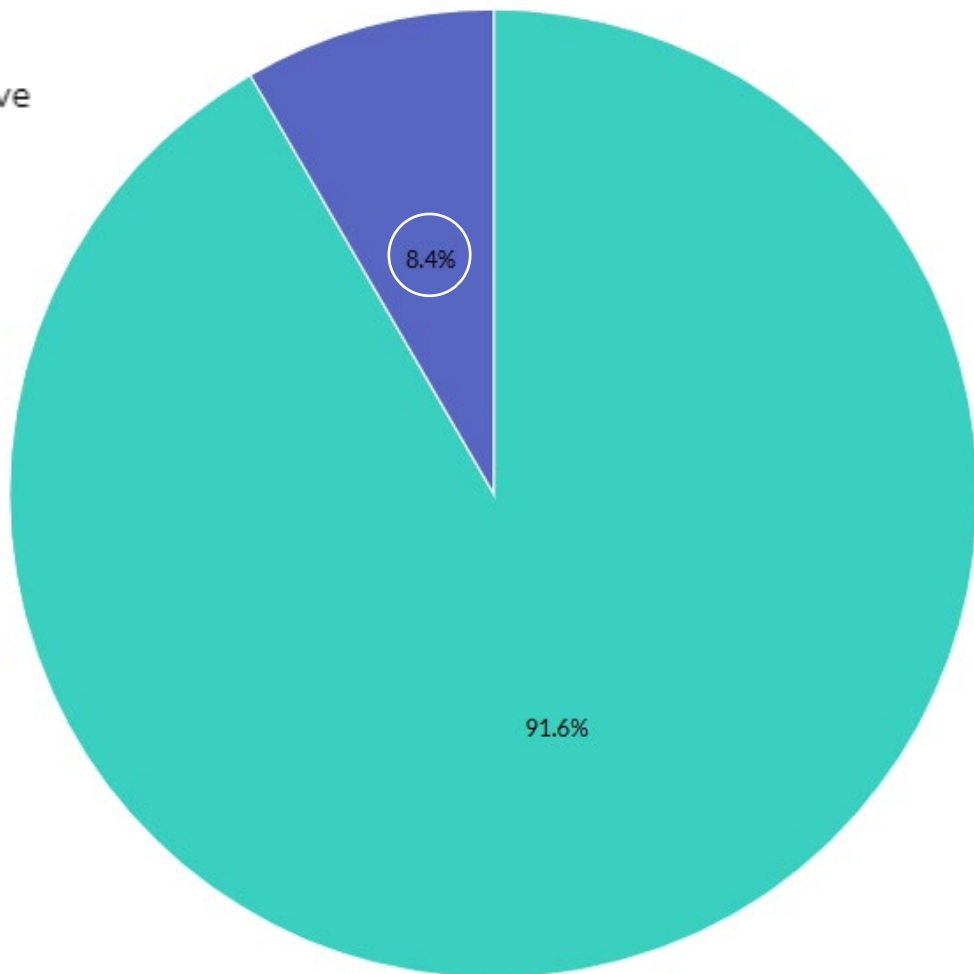
2025

FEBRUARY 1 – APRIL 1

2024



- ✓ Independence Ave
- ✓ Wilson



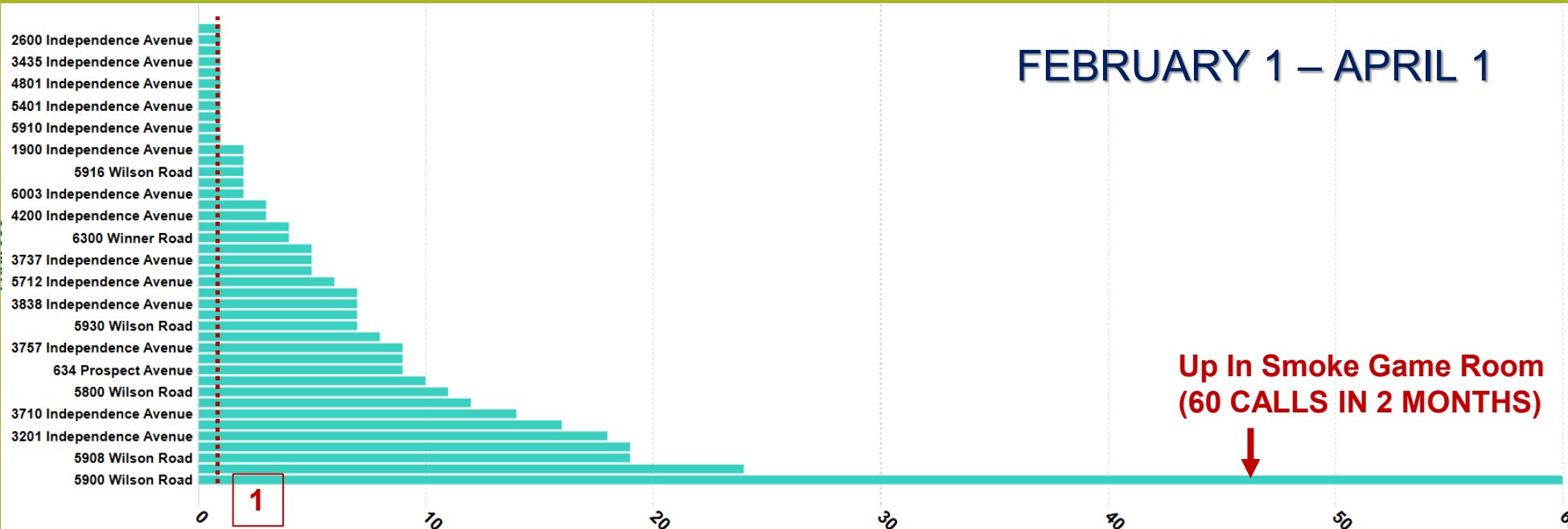
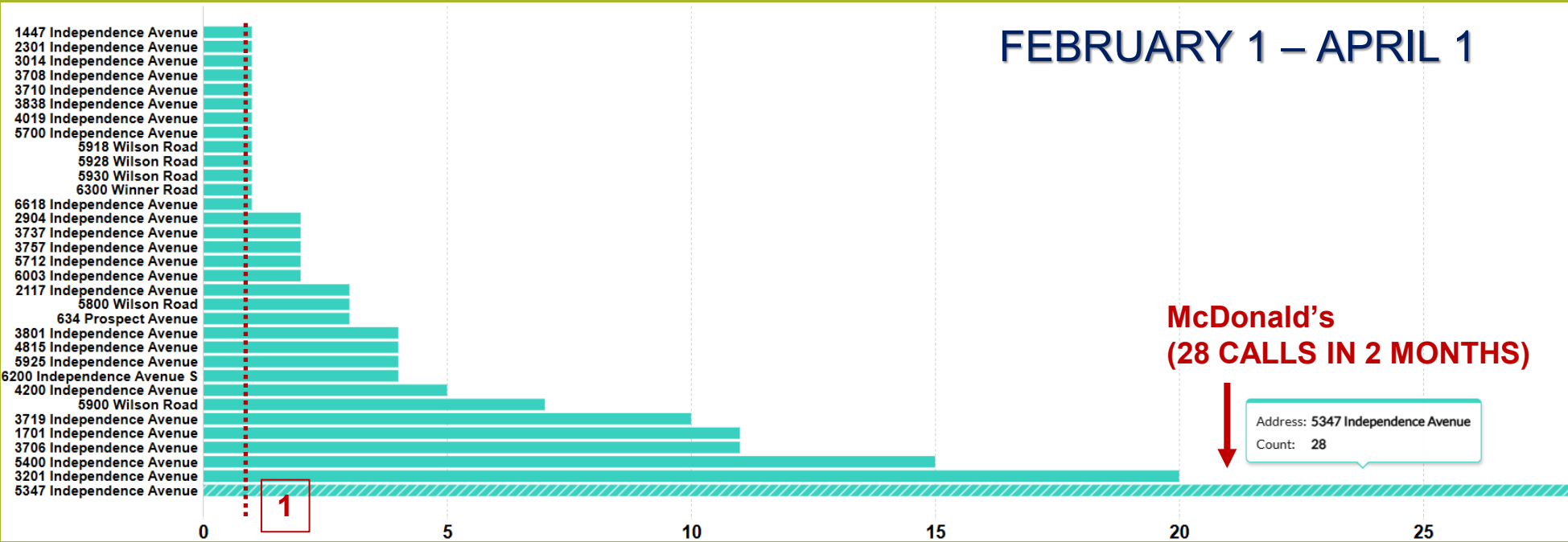
TITAN REPORT



2025

ACTIVITY...
BY ADDRESS

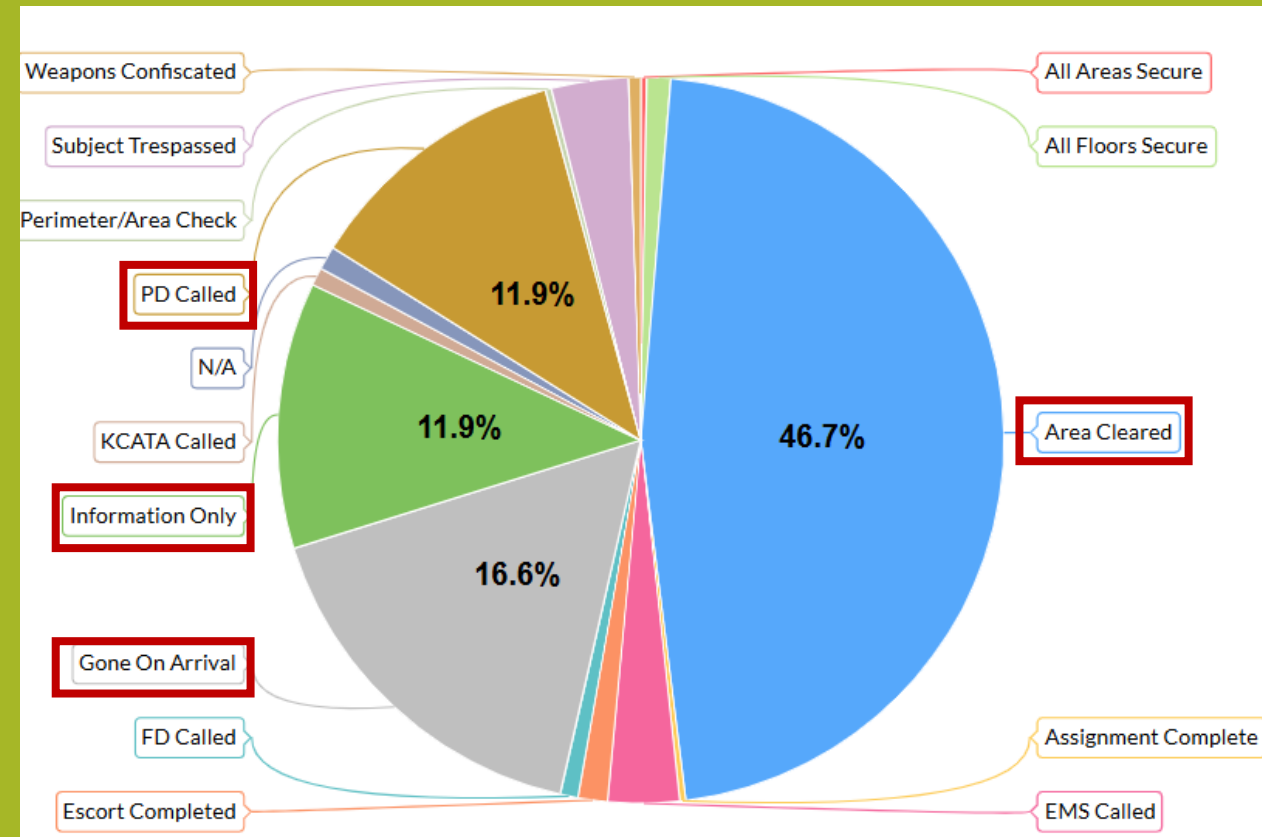
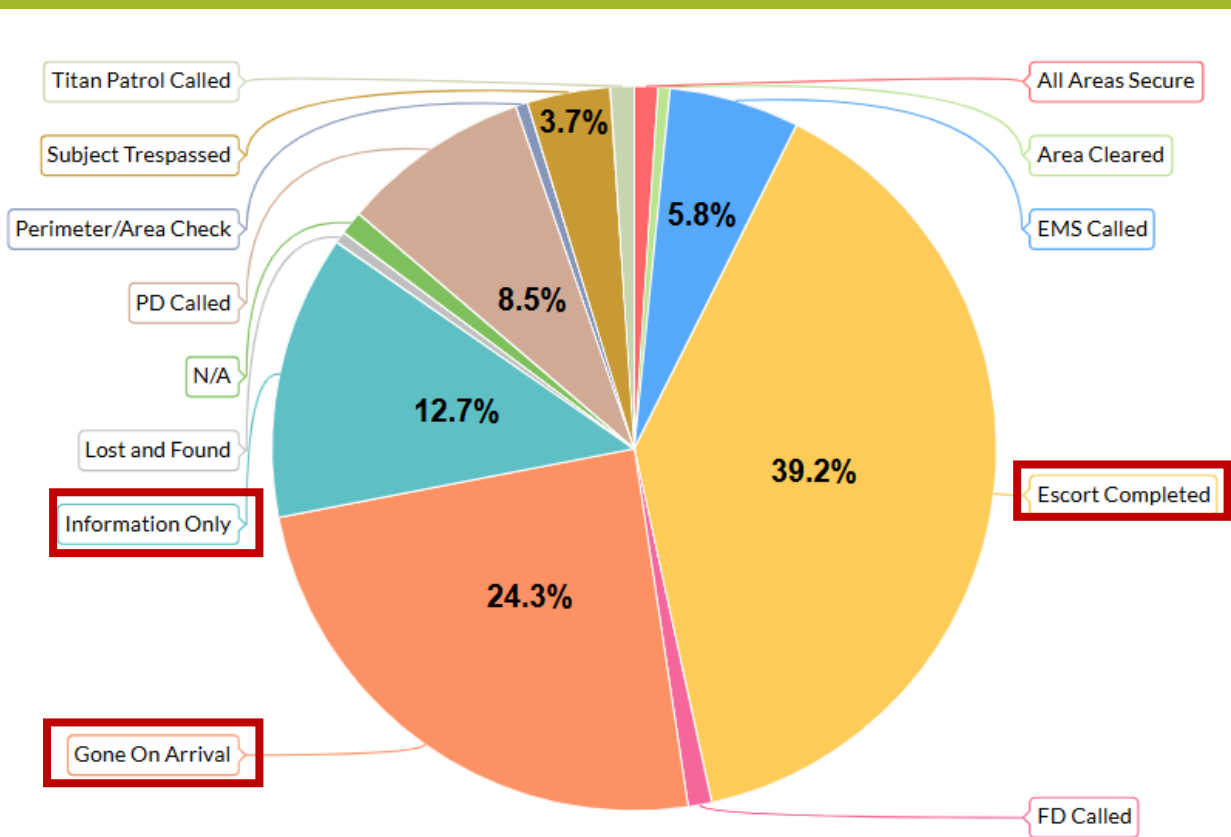
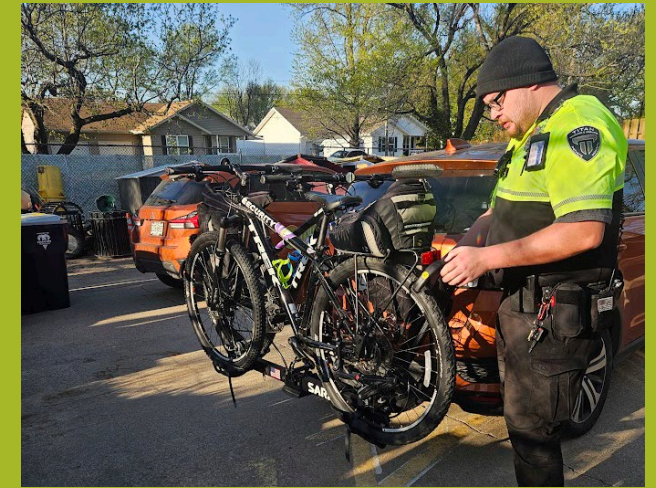
2024



TITAN REPORT



OVERALL ACTIVITY FEBRUARY 1 – APRIL 1 2025 2024



AVAILABLE SPACE ON... Independence AVE



2601 INDEPENDENCE



2435 INDEPENDENCE



2635 INDEPENDENCE



2815 INDEPENDENCE



3066 INDEPENDENCE



3220 INDEPENDENCE

AVAILABLE SPACE ON... Independence AVE



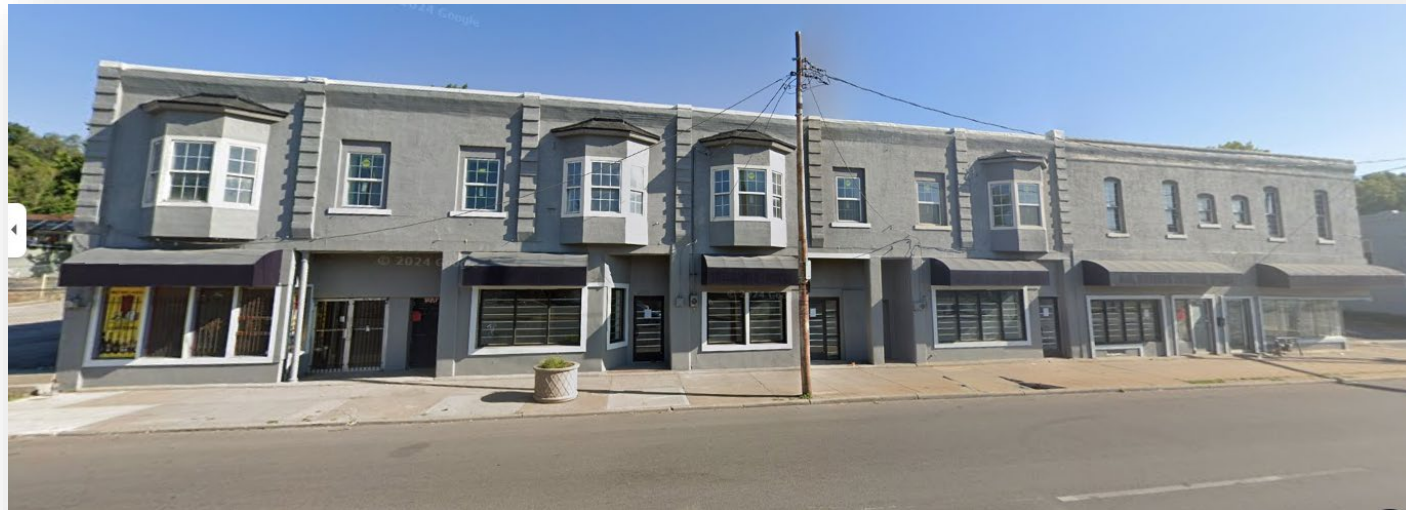
3245 INDEPENDENCE



3500 INDEPENDENCE



2425 INDEPENDENCE



3616, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 INDEPENDENCE



3708 & 10 INDEPENDENCE

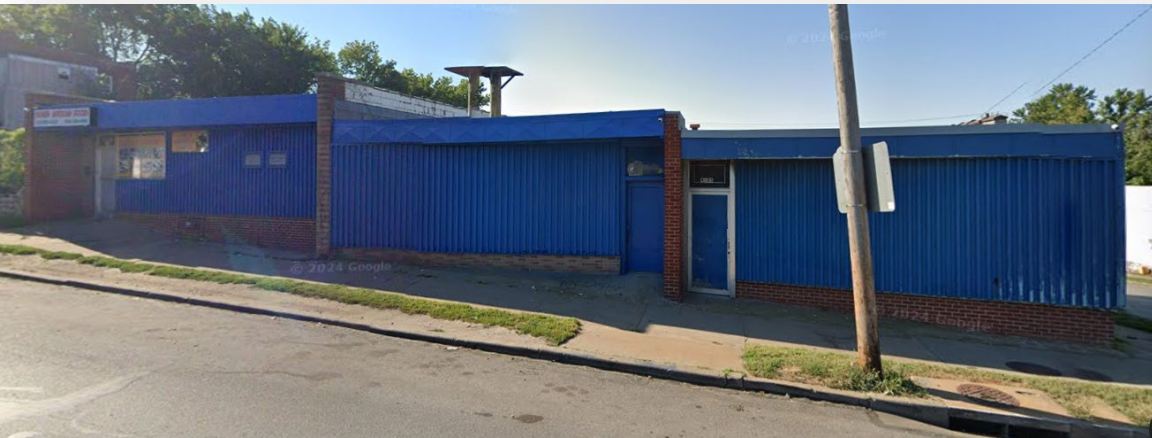
AVAILABLE SPACE ON... Independence AVE



3826 INDEPENDENCE



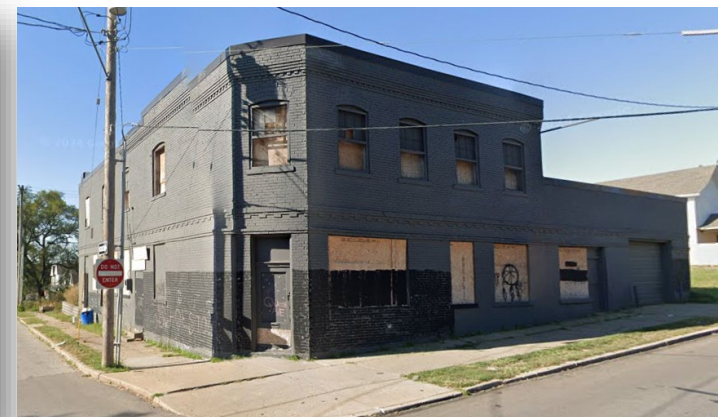
4011 & 13 INDEPENDENCE



4105 INDEPENDENCE



4300 & 03 INDEPENDENCE



3220 INDEPENDENCE



Last week's Independence Avenue Community Improvement District 4-Corners Community Call was Love Expression's located at 4618 Independence Ave.



4-11-2025 Fresh Market, 2604 Indep



2-7-2025 Kasanova Hair Studio



3-12-2025 SVN SCHOOL



4-21-2025 PRICE CHOPPER



3-28-2025 Cah America Pawn



4-4-2025 San Antonio's Cafe



2-28-2024 EBEN-EZER SHOP

INDEPENDENCE AVE CID's STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

6 April 16, 2025 • www.northeastnews.net



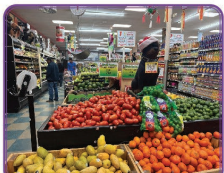
EXPLORE • DISCOVER • EXPERIENCE

Avenue Origin Hispanic Grocery Stores Near Decade of Serving Northeast Families

Julia Williams
Editor-in-Chief



Original El Mercado Fresco Fresh Market at 5117 Independence Ave. | Photo courtesy of El Mercado Fresco.



Produce at 2620 Independence Ave., Fresh Market | Photo by Julia Williams

El Mercado Fresco — a franchise of nine Hispanic and ethnic grocery stores across the Kansas City Missouri and Kansas metropolitan area — is owned and operated by Eddie Musallet and Sam Zaben and their families.

The business started in 2016 at its 5117 Independence Ave., location with a mission of targeting and providing goods to the highly populated Hispanic community.

Musallet and Zaben went on to expand their business — opening second

and third El Mercado Fresco locations outside of Northeast boundaries: one in Grandview and one in Kansas City, Kan.

In 2020, Snyder's Supermarket — a Northeast grocery store with a nearly 50 year history — closed its doors at 2620 Independence Ave., which led this family to acquire the building and open another Avenue location in 2021.

"[The Northeast] has a highly populated Hispanic population; we saw a demand for another Hispanic market," Store Manager, Junior Zaben shared in an interview, Monday.

However, Junior said that while the smaller El Mercado Fresco stores along the Avenue were doing well, the family wanted a larger structure, which included sufficient parking spaces for customers. When the CVS Pharmacy at 5501 Independence Ave. went out of business in 2023, Musallet and Zaben purchased the space to open their third Northeast location.

While Junior shared that each El Mercado Fresco store is unique, many will carry similar items ranging anywhere from Hispanic, Central American, South American and Asian goods.

Newer Fresh Market stores — including the location at 5001 Independence Ave. — have additionally incorporated a kitchen with Hispanic and Asian dishes and a Fruit-to-Paleta and Ice Cream Shop.

When asked about El Mercado Fresco's most popular items, Junior shared that the whole store will make the equation, but their produce and meat departments remain a strong suit.

In terms of providers, Junior said the family has a plethora of suppliers and vendors, which come from all over the world for items

sold within its stores including — but not limited to — Hondurans, Guatemalans, Mexicans and Chinese, among others.

"We're very grateful to be a part of the community and for all the support," Junior shared in an interview, Monday. "We're so grateful to be where we are."

In addition to providing goods for the community, he shared that their family also loves to give back, which includes offering donations to Special Olympics — a national nonprofit organization focused on providing athletic training to children and adults with

disabilities — Guadalupe Centers and Harvesters, among others.

For more information on El Mercado Fresco including locations and hours of operation, visit: <https://www.elmercadofresco.com/>.

Photo by Julia Williams



This information is provided for you through the Independence Avenue CID (Community Improvement District), the Northeast Kansas City Chamber Of Commerce and the Northeast News

For more information, visit www.nekkchamber.com

www.northeastnews.net • April 16, 2025 7



FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY CALL



Last week's Independence Avenue Community Improvement District Four Corners Community Call was El Mercado Fresco Fresh Market, 2620 Independence Ave.

JOIN US AT 3 P.M., FRIDAY FOR OUR FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY CALL

Cosentino's Price Chopper
5800 Wilson Ave.

CURRENT ISSUE 4-16-2025

4 April 23, 2025 • www.northeastnews.net



EXPLORE • DISCOVER • EXPERIENCE

Hispanic Grocery Store Enters Second Decade of Serving Northeast Families



Exterior view of El Mercado Fresco Fresh Market at 5117 Independence Ave. | Photo by Julia Williams

El Mercado Fresco — a franchise of nine Hispanic and ethnic grocery stores across the Kansas City Missouri and Kansas metropolitan area — is owned and operated by Eddie Musallet and Sam Zaben and their families.

The business started in 2016 at its 5117 Independence Ave., location with a mission of targeting and providing goods to the highly populated Hispanic community.

Musallet and Zaben went on to expand their business — opening second



Produce at 2620 Independence Ave., Fresh Market | Photo by Julia Williams



Four Corners Community Call participants on bicycles.



This information is provided for you through the Independence Avenue CID (Community Improvement District), the Northeast Kansas City Chamber Of Commerce and the Northeast News

For more information, visit www.nekkchamber.com

4 February 26, 2025 • www.northeastnews.net



EXPLORE • DISCOVER • EXPERIENCE

East-African Family-Run Business Enters 7th Year Serving up Northeast Community



Exterior view of the East-African family-run business.

The business started in 2018 at its 5117 Independence Ave., location with a mission of targeting and providing goods to the highly populated Hispanic community.

Musallet and Zaben went on to expand their business — opening second



Produce at 2620 Independence Ave., Fresh Market | Photo by Julia Williams



Four Corners Community Call participants on bicycles.



This information is provided for you through the Independence Avenue CID (Community Improvement District), the Northeast Kansas City Chamber Of Commerce and the Northeast News

For more information, visit www.nekkchamber.com

4 February 26, 2025 • www.northeastnews.net



EXPLORE • DISCOVER • EXPERIENCE

Community Family-Run Pharmacy Receives Exterior Upgrades Through Rebate Program



Exterior view of the Community Family-Run Pharmacy.

The business started in 2018 at its 5117 Independence Ave., location with a mission of targeting and providing goods to the highly populated Hispanic community.

Musallet and Zaben went on to expand their business — opening second



Four Corners Community Call participants on bicycles.



This information is provided for you through the Independence Avenue CID (Community Improvement District), the Northeast Kansas City Chamber Of Commerce and the Northeast News

For more information, visit www.nekkchamber.com

4 March 2, 2025 • www.northeastnews.net



EXPLORE • DISCOVER • EXPERIENCE

Rebate Program Aids to Increase Independence Avenue Business Visibility



Exterior view of the business receiving the rebate program.

The business started in 2018 at its 5117 Independence Ave., location with a mission of targeting and providing goods to the highly populated Hispanic community.

Musallet and Zaben went on to expand their business — opening second



Four Corners Community Call participants on bicycles.



This information is provided for you through the Independence Avenue CID (Community Improvement District), the Northeast Kansas City Chamber Of Commerce and the Northeast News

For more information, visit www.nekkchamber.com

4 March 2, 2025 • www.northeastnews.net



EXPLORE • DISCOVER • EXPERIENCE

Charter School Works to Increase Safety for Students through CID and City Programs



Exterior view of the Charter School.

The business started in 2018 at its 5117 Independence Ave., location with a mission of targeting and providing goods to the highly populated Hispanic community.

Musallet and Zaben went on to expand their business — opening second



Four Corners Community Call participants on bicycles.



This information is provided for you through the Independence Avenue CID (Community Improvement District), the Northeast Kansas City Chamber Of Commerce and the Northeast News

For more information, visit www.nekkchamber.com

4-9-2025

3-13-2025

3-13-2025



RESERVE THE EGG

Ready to host your event at theEGG?

Simply fill out the form by clicking the button below.

BOOK TODAY



The EGG EVENTS Book Your Event @ theEGG Online www.NEKCchamber.com

DEC 7 & 8: HNE ARTISTS OPEN STUDIO TOUR

5 Whim Space

410 Prospect Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64108

Kevin King / Apolo Castillo JR
www.kevinkingart.com / www.apolocaltostio.com
Whim Space is an art focused community center located in the heart of the city. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others.

Alex Laughlin
www.alexlaughlin.com / www.alexlaughlin.com
Alex Laughlin is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. He is a member of the local art community and is always looking for new ways to express himself through his art.

Brenden Blue
www.brendenblue.com / www.brendenblue.com
Brenden Blue is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. He is a member of the local art community and is always looking for new ways to express himself through his art.

Ravi
www.raviart.com / www.raviart.com
Ravi is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. He is a member of the local art community and is always looking for new ways to express himself through his art.

6 Schillevison Painting Studio
www.schillevison.com / www.schillevison.com
Schillevison Painting Studio is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others.

Michael Schillevison
www.michaelschillevison.com / www.michaelschillevison.com
Michael Schillevison is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. He is a member of the local art community and is always looking for new ways to express himself through his art.

7 Back Door Pottery
www.backdoorpottery.com / www.backdoorpottery.com
Back Door Pottery is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others.

Rebecca Koop
www.rebecka koop.com / www.rebecka koop.com
Rebecca Koop is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. She is a member of the local art community and is always looking for new ways to express herself through her art.

Wick Thomas and Clay Jarral
www.wickthomasandclayjarral.com / www.wickthomasandclayjarral.com
Wick Thomas and Clay Jarral are multi-media artists who work in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. They are members of the local art community and are always looking for new ways to express themselves through their art.

Nancy Gordon - Art
www.nancygordonart.com / www.nancygordonart.com
Nancy Gordon is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. She is a member of the local art community and is always looking for new ways to express herself through her art.

8 Sala de Arte
www.saladearte.com / www.saladearte.com
Sala de Arte is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others.

Rafael Hernandez - Gallery Owner
www.rafaelhernandez.com / www.rafaelhernandez.com
Rafael Hernandez is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. He is a member of the local art community and is always looking for new ways to express himself through his art.

Chico Sierra - Art
www.chicosierra.com / www.chicosierra.com
Chico Sierra is a multi-media artist who works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculpture, and digital art. He is a member of the local art community and is always looking for new ways to express himself through his art.

Influenced by the interest in creating social sciences and digital technology the art world has been looking for new ways to express itself through its art. This is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others.

Sponsored by Northeast Arts KC:
Dedication & to provide, enhance, fund, market and support cultural events which bring the visual and the performing arts to the public in the Northeast Kansas City community without regard to race, religion or ethnic group. We create programs that locally and increase the visibility of the arts in the community. We create programs that locally and increase the visibility of the arts in the community. We create programs that locally and increase the visibility of the arts in the community.

NEK's Monarch Nation
www.neksmonarchnation.com / www.neksmonarchnation.com
NEK's Monarch Nation is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others. It is a place where artists can come to work, create, and share their work with others.

DEC 7 & 8: BOOK SIGNING

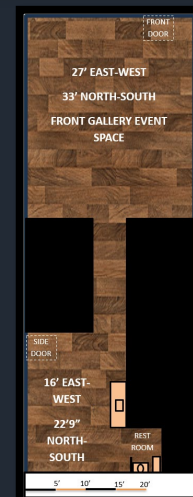
Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Published by Laura Birdsong
- a day ago -

The Third Annual Northeast Arts KC Open Studio Tour is under way!! Be sure to stop The EGG: Art & Business Incubator and the other 7 locations to support our local artists!!

AVAILABLE FOR CREATIVITY

Fees:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekend Rate per day: | 8am to 10pm \$200 |
| Evening Rate: | 6pm to 10pm \$75 |
| Daily Rate; morning: | 8am to 12pm \$50 |
| Daily Rate; afternoon: | 1pm to 5 pm \$50 |



UPCOMING EVENTS



COFFEE CULTURE & CONVERSATION

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

Core Coffee



TASTY TOPIC TALK LUNCH

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

Temporary Detention Center



SAFETY & SECURITY MEETING

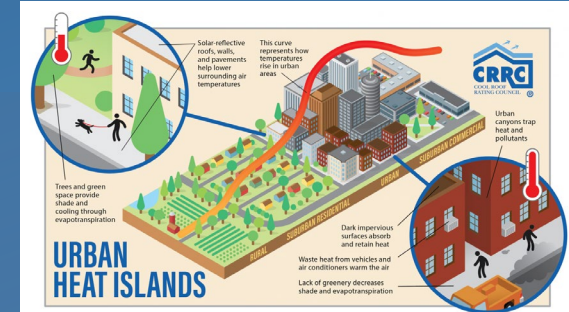
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

Discuss Local Security
Issues & Solutions



Urban Heat Island Reduction **THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025**

MARC & EVERGY



MURAL DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

Chalk Walk in the Park

FIND AN ARTIST FOR A
MURAL FOR YOUR
BUILDING

NEKC CHAMBER & INDEPENDENCE AVENUE CID MANAGEMENT STAFF

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS & COMMITTEES



BOBBI BAKER

**CHAMBER CEO
&
CID DISTRICT
MANAGER**

1 Northeast Strivin' COMBAT
2 KC Chamber Public Safety Coalition
3 KC 'Vision Zero'
4 HNE Houseless
5 Small Developers of KC
6 NE Coalition
7 HNE/EGG Board Member
8 HNE Media Board Member
9 Recipient: Carol Col Community Defender Award



REBECCA KOOP

**EVENTS DIRECTOR
&
ARTS
COORDINATOR**

1 KC Source Link
2 Arts as Membership a 501c3
3 Welcome KC
4 KC Refugee & Immigrant Services & Empowerment
5 The EGG Board
6 Recipient: 2024 Urban Heroes Award



LAURA BIRDSONG

**RESOURCE
&
AMBASSADOR
MANAGER**

1 Safety & Security Committee
2 Recipient: Community Champion 816 Award
3 Certified Harm Reduction Specialist
4 HNE Community Engagement Liaison
5 KCMO Houseless Summit Ambassador
6 National Coalition for the Homeless: Civil Rights/Organizing Committee



ROL DIING

**AMBASSADOR
OF
BUSINESS
COMMUNICATIONS**

1 Aweil East Community Association Inc - USA former Chairman
2 NEKC Chamber Liaison for the Historic Northeast Area Businesses



MIKE SPADY

**URBAN PLANNER
&
HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGER**

1 Kessler Park Plan Implementation Committee
2 MARC Bi-State Sustainable Corridor Advisory Board
3 MARC Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Update Committee
5 The Kansas City Media Collective 2024 Voters Guide Focus Group
6 Urban Core Group Chair



LON CLARK

**URBAN PLANNER
&
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

1 Safety & Security Committee
2 Independence Avenue Storefront Improvement Rebate Board
3 The Paseo Gateway & Choice Neighborhood Initiative Liaison

THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE

2657 INDEPENDENCE BLVD, KCMO



NORTHEAST KANSAS CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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Manager IA CID



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Owner, Law Office of Jerry Potocnik



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Vice Chairman
Realtor & Certified Property Manager



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Loan Officer, Central Bank of the Midwest



MANNY ABARCA IV
Secretary
Jackson County, Mo Legislature



SARAH COUSINEAU
Promotions, Central Bank of KC



ANDREA WILT
Advisor, Premier Financial



DR ED KENDRICK
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BECKY GRIPP
Owner, The Tamali Kitchen



ANN RUNDQUIST
Children's Memorial Lutheran Church



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AMANDA HOCKMAN
Manager, Express Stop



CHRIS ROSS
Manager, Custom Truck & Equipment



JIM LAWLESS
Realtor, Northeast Realty



INDEPENDENCE AVENUE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



BOBBI BAKER-HUGHES
CID District Manager
NEKC Chamber of Commerce



CHARLIE PASSANTINO
Chairperson
Passantino Bros Funeral Home



ANTHONY SPALITTO
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Spalitto Pharmacy, LLC



STEVE GILES
Treasurer
President, Central Bank of KC



MATHEW HAASE
At Large
KCU Director of Strategic Relations



RICK CARROLL
At Large
Cosentino's Price Chopper



JOE MIKA
Sargent of Arms
Mika Enterprises, Inc.



HISTORIC NORTHEAST MEDIA



BOBBI BAKER-HUGHES
President/CEO
NEKC Chamber of Commerce



ELLEN SCHWALLER-GOEBEL
Treasurer
Accountant



MANNY ABARCA IV
Secretary
Jackson County, Mo Legislature



HISTORIC NORTHEAST EVENTS



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President/CEO
NEKC Chamber of Commerce



REBECCA KOOP
Vice President
Business & Community Events Director



JONH HENDERSON
Treasurer
Missouri Lake Living Vacations, LLC