

Last night at Winnetonka High School I delivered the annual State of the City address to discuss COVID-19 recovery, [the FY21-22 budget](#), economic development, violence prevention, and the year ahead.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Take the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to you—that's the best way to aid in COVID-19 recovery.** The Kansas City Health Department is working to vaccinate more than 1,000 vulnerable Kansas Citians per week, and we will continue to fight for equitable distribution.
- **No City employees will be laid off due to budgetary concerns.** No Public Works staff, Parks and Recreation staff, Firefighters, EMS, or officers at the Kansas City Police Department will lose their jobs due to budget cuts.
- **City services will not suffer.** Police and Fire Departments, 911 call responders, snowplows, and public works will continue to maintain and improve City services.
- **The budget strategy includes:** cutting city travel and special events budget, removing of currently unfilled positions, continuing the City's hiring freeze, increasing fees for street degradation by utilities, and incentivizing early retirement, and more.
- **Pursuing a unified board for economic development review**, which will combine our existing economic incentive boards. As we seek to grow equitably, this will streamline and simplify the way the City participates in development projects.
- **Continuing to fight violent crime through a multifaceted approach**, expanding youth mentorship and mental health programs, recruiting law enforcement reflective of our community, decriminalizing poverty, and preventing crime before it starts.

Our trajectory in 2021 may not seem positive to some, but our city will keep working, keep grinding, knowing that we're building a brighter, safer, and healthier life for all. We are a city that cares for the ill, the working poor, those without permanent shelter, and all those who serve our community. We always will be.

Sincerely,

Mayor Q

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Q' followed by a stylized flourish.

Copy the following link to your browser for the full transcript

<https://kcmo.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3e4b5887e05b4ab725a02dc40&id=af6282ca71&e=a31f28c971>