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MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

JAMILAH NASHEED
5TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND
FISCAL OVERSIGHT
GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

April 3, 2017

Honorable Eric Greitens
Governor of Missouri
201 W Capitol Ave, Room 216
Jefferson City, Mo 65101

The Honorable Gov. Eric Greitens:

Governor Greitens, last December before taking office, you made a point to visit the streets of St. Louis to deliver food and blankets to people in need. The pictures you posted on Facebook demonstrated a leader committed to addressing poverty, homelessness and hunger. It is for this reason that I now call on you to take action as governor to address the immediate crisis caused by the closing of the New Life Evangelistic Center for the Homeless in St. Louis City.

Each night, upwards of 200 Missourians depended on the New Life Evangelistic Center for a safe place to sleep and for food to eat. Unfortunately, with the shelter closing, many of the displaced men, women and children in my district will be housed through warehouses and recreational centers. However, with this crisis, we need all hands on deck.

This crisis only highlights the importance of reinstating low-income housing tax credits in the city. These tax credits are essential to encouraging developers to build and maintain housing for individuals who would not be able to afford housing otherwise. Tax credits assist in alleviating the burden on homeless shelters and allow families to remain intact, be self-sufficient and provide a safe place. If we are to be serious about addressing homelessness, we must consider these tax credits. After all, it is not solely a lack of housing that is the problem; rather, it is the lack of affordable housing that continues to perpetuate this cycle of homelessness.

While awareness of the issue through social media is appreciated, it is only through action that this problem can begin to be addressed. That is why I am respectfully requesting that the State of Missouri make available all necessary emergency food and shelter assistance, as well as health and mental health services needed in the impacted area until a permanent shelter with adequate capacity is established.

As you are aware, and have demonstrated with aptitude, the State of Missouri has the capacity to offer emergency food and shelter in times of disaster through the State Emergency Management Agency and its network of partner organizations. Governor Greitens, the immediate displacement of these men, women and children is a disaster in every sense of the word and must

be responded to with the same vigor, attention and conviction with which you have responded to previous disasters in our state.

I look forward to working with you on this issue and offering any assistance needed from my office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamilah Nasheed". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jamilah Nasheed