



**MU News Bureau**

*Daily Clips Packet*

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## University of Missouri chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon under cease-and-desist order

By: Marie Bowman

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/university-of-missouri-chapter-of-sigma-alpha-epsilon-under-cess-and-desist-order/676404733>

**COLUMBIA, Mo. - The Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) chapter at the University of Missouri has been placed under a cease-and-desist order, meaning that they must stop all kinds of chapter operations until further notice.**

ABC 17 reached out to SAE nationals, who responded with a statement. "The sanction comes as part of our investigation into health & safety violations regarding the group. In addition, we continue to work with university administrators and chapter leaders to gain more information surrounding the infractions," said the statement from Director of Communications Johnny Sao. "Our goal is to provide a meaningful and beneficial experience for all of our members and the communities in which they live."

Sao said the violations are specific to the chapter and were discovered by national's staff, not the university.

University of Missouri spokesperson Christian Basi said Friday they will work with the national organization and cooperate any way they can.

"Safety is always our number one priority and we will continue to work with those who want to improve it," he said.

According to SAE, their chapters at the University of Mississippi and University of Texas in Austin are closing.

You can read the entire statement from SAE on the University of Missouri chapter below:

*The Fraternity Service Center of Sigma Alpha Epsilon has placed its chapter at the University of Missouri (Columbia, MO) under a cease-and-desist order, which means all chapter operations must halt until further notice. The sanction comes as part of our investigation into health & safety violations regarding the group. In addition, we continue to work with university administrators and chapter leaders to gain more information surrounding the infractions. Sigma*

*Alpha Epsilon maintains stringent guidelines and expectations for our members, and those who do not comply with them are addressed accordingly. Furthermore, we have a zero-tolerance policy for any actions or behaviors that deviate from our policies, mission and creed — because that type of conduct is unacceptable. Our goal is to provide a meaningful and beneficial experience for all of our members and the communities in which they live. Every member is required to complete training programs on various important topics, including sexual assault, hazing, alcohol and substance abuse, and diversity and inclusion. Our national and regional leadership and educational events also provide training in these areas. SAE has proudly supported education and training which holds our members accountable to the values of the Fraternity.*

The president of the MU chapter declined to comment on the cease-and-desist order.

The SAE chapter has not faced any school conduct violations this semester, Basi told ABC 17 News.

SAE becomes the fifth fraternity chapter in two years to face some kind of punishment for its chapter's conduct. The national organizations of Delta Upsilon in 2016 and Sigma Phi Epsilon in 2017 got involved after numerous violations at their chapters. The university withdrew its recognition of Kappa Alpha Order and Sigma Pi in 2016 for alcohol-related incidents at the fraternity houses.

## **T** COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

### **MU fraternity ordered to cease activity**

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**The Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Missouri was ordered to cease all activity Friday by the fraternity's national governing body.**

Without specifying the reason for the order, which is effective until further notice, the fraternity said it was “part of our investigation into health and safety violations regarding the group,” according to statement from spokesman Johnny Sao.

No discipline was imposed against the fraternity, which was suspended from campus from 2010 to 2014, in the semester that just ended, MU spokesman Christian Basi wrote in an email. In the fall of 2016, the fraternity was placed on disciplinary probation through the spring semester.

The national fraternity banned alcohol from chapter social events from Dec. 4 through Feb. 28.

“We have a zero-tolerance policy for any actions or behaviors that deviate from our policies, mission and creed — because that type of conduct is unacceptable,” the statement about the MU chapter stated.

# **T** COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

## **City officials revisiting ways to support affordable housing**

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By: Caitlin Campbell

Local leaders are looking for ways to support projects that provide affordable rent for low-income residents after a commission this month cut state funding for housing tax credits.

Local plans to help encourage development of affordable housing received renewed attention last week, at least partially in response to a decisions by the Missouri Housing Development Commission to not issue state low-income housing tax credits in 2018.

Randy Cole, the city’s housing programs supervisor, on Monday encouraged the Columbia City Council to establish a Fair Housing Task Force to tackle the issue. Cole said he expects to present a bill to create a temporary housing task force to the council in February.

Columbia is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to meet certain fair housing requirements to combat discrimination, overcome patterns of segregation and foster a community “free from barriers that restrict access to opportunities,” Cole said. Among other things, the task force would consult two previous city reports — a 2008 Affordable Housing Policy Task Force Report and a 2015 Affordable Housing Symposium Report — to provide suggestions on how to promote affordable and fair housing, Cole wrote in his report.

Cole said there are some recommendations in those reports leaders have yet to implement, including adopting a resolution proclaiming that the city is dedicated to supporting affordable living, hiring a high-ranking city employee to study and advise people on local housing and exploring and adopting specific policies or regulations incentivizing affordable housing development.

The December 2015 report came from a city-hosted Affordable Housing Symposium that coordinated residents and experts nationwide to create an actionable list of ways to tackle housing issues locally. The symposium accompanied a push by city leaders in the past few years to make support for affordable housing construction a priority; the priority is listed in the city’s 2016 to 2019 three-year strategic plan.

The issue received significant attention from city officials and city council candidates because studies showed not only a racial gap in income and housing opportunities, but also that young adults — particularly university students — are finding rental options increasingly restricted to higher-rent apartments.

Partially fueling the efforts since 2015 were reports such as citywide surveys, cited by the city manager in his State of the City addresses, which showed 81 percent of white residents earned a wage allowing them to meet basic needs, while only 68 percent of black residents could say the same. Additionally, a boom of high-rent student housing construction drew ire. **In fall 2015, representatives of the Missouri Student Association, the student-led governing body at the University of Missouri, also presented to the council a study analyzing the financial situation of hundreds of students, which found many struggled to find rentals that fit their tight budgets, which were frequently supported by student loans.**

It is unclear whether the proclamation or new city staff position mentioned in the 2015 report are forthcoming, but at least one city commission is working on policies and incentives to spur affordable housing development.

The city's Planning and Zoning Commission has long discussed creating policies to promote affordable housing development, but many of those discussions were put on hold late last year while the commission took up the mammoth task of reviewing an overhaul of city zoning and development regulations.

Commissioner Michael MacMann said Friday that the issue came back up during a Thursday afternoon meeting, and members are reconsidering some ideas in light of the recent decisions by state officials. Although many Columbia residents who commented on the development code overhaul requested it include regulations to support affordable housing, just what those regulations would look like proved to be politically controversial and many were left out to be revisited at a later date.

One idea is to add “density bonuses” for developers of housing for multiple families, such as apartments. The policy would allow for developers to build more densely than zoning regulations would typically allow — a “bonus” for them — in exchange for a guarantee of some sort that a specific number of those apartments or homes would be kept affordable. The idea ran into barriers such as a lack of a definition of affordable housing in city ordinances, disagreement about how to award the bonuses and uncertainty about how to enforce developers' guarantees.

An idea for what is referred to as “inclusionary zoning” has also emerged. Inclusionary zoning can require as part of zoning regulations that new residential development have a certain percentage of affordable housing units.

The city met one of the five goals in the 2015 report by establishing a Community Land Trust, which is a not-for-profit organization that holds in trust the title to land where publicly subsidized housing projects are built as leverage to ensure an affordable resale value of the home. Buyers purchase subsidized homes, and the trust leases them the land — typically with a 99-year lease — that requires any resale to remain affordable.

The closest the council has come to a resolution proclaiming affordable housing as a priority accompanied the establishment of the Community Land Trust, as the ordinance creating the group includes 29 statements outlining why the organization is needed. Those statements include committing the city to support permanently affordable housing development and expanded opportunities for home ownership, as well as acknowledging Columbia faces several housing challenges that affect even moderate-income residents at a time where public resources for affordable development are shrinking.

First identified by city leaders in the 2008 Affordable Housing Policy Task Force Report as a way to protect the public investment in subsidized housing, the Community Land Trust began building homes in central Columbia's Lynn Street area this year. The homes were supported by a city policy change to waive building permit fees, which can save about \$5,000 on construction, Cole said. The project does not use tax credits, instead relying on funding sources such as city government funding and low-interest loans.



## Large police presence near MU campus after reports of possible shooting

*Reports: K-9 unit searching for people involved*

**COLUMBIA, Mo. - Columbia police were seen blocking off areas near the University of Missouri campus early Sunday morning.**

ABC 17 News heard reports of a shooting around the same time police were searching the area at about 3:15 a.m.

An hour later, news crews saw Columbia police and Boone County Sheriff deputies patrolling along Old Highway 63.

The areas with the largest police presence were Morningside and Cliff drives, William and Rollins streets, University Avenue and Rockhill Road.

ABC 17 News also heard reports that police were searching for possible shooters.

A K-9 unit was at the scene of William and Rollins streets.

ABC 17 News is working to confirm the possible shooting and will update this story once more information is available.

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## [From Trump to the solar eclipse: 2017 saw us divided, hurt and, yes, happy](#)

By: Rick Montgomery

Thinking back, this almost seems like fake news: For one day in 2017, many Americans were more united than they've been in a long while.

And Kansas City was in the middle of it, remember?

**[“An Apollo moment,” said University of Missouri astrophysicist Angela Speck, recalling the total solar eclipse.](#)**

Starting in Oregon and ending in South Carolina — two states on opposite political sides — more than 200 million spectators on Aug. 21 delighted in the celestial show streaking over the nation.

The eclipse briefly interrupted a debate about Confederate monuments, among many divisive issues that seemed to flare every few days in 2017. In fact, an 83-year-old memorial on Ward Parkway honoring the “Loyal Women of the Old South” [was disassembled by its caretakers and carted away](#) on the week of the eclipse.

It's easy to recall all that cleaved Americans in President Donald Trump's first year in office: immigration, transgender rights, allegations of Russia meddling in last year's election, mass shootings, sexual misconduct, a tax overhaul and practically everything Trump tweeted.

But for many the memories most lasting are apt to be what occurred in our own lives.

Like watching a total eclipse with the kids.

“Not since the moon landings have we had anything to get children super excited about science,” Speck said. “I'm hoping that day will inspire some kids to pursue scientific fields.”

OK. It was only one day.

The story continues: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/article191222909.html>

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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## Can Missouri's charter schools be measured by a single number? The debate is on

By: Kristen Taketa

**ST. LOUIS** • Lafayette Preparatory Academy is arguably one of St. Louis' most popular charter schools.

Visit Lafayette and you'll see children jumping and running on the school playground, where students get 30 to 60 minutes of recess a day. The hallways of the recently renovated building are painted a soft gray and look modern and new. Parent involvement is high, and mandatory — the school requires parents to volunteer at least 25 hours a year. The school is socioeconomically and racially diverse, a rare achievement for public schools in St. Louis.

Yet the 5-year-old school received a score of 65 percent this year on its first state-issued annual performance report, known as an APR. On paper, that means it performs only as well as a provisionally accredited school.

One could look at that 65 percent score and say Lafayette is doing worse than St. Louis Public Schools, which overall earned a 68.2 percent score.

But St. Louis Public Schools enrolls more than 21,000 students in 77 schools, which range from high-performing and selective magnet schools such as Metro to low-performing neighborhood schools with near-rock-bottom proficiency rates on state tests.

Lafayette has about 230 students in just one school. Because Lafayette only educates kindergartners through sixth-graders, it can't earn as many points on its annual review as the public school district can. Missouri also doesn't base charter school scores on exactly the same factors. On top of that, about 48.9 percent of Lafayette's students scored proficient or advanced in English on state standardized tests and 36.7 percent did so in math, which is better than all but four St. Louis district schools for English and all but 10 district schools for math.

Given all that, charter school advocates ask: Is that a fair comparison?

The question has implications for how Missourians view charter schools, one of the country's most polarizing education topics, at a time when some legislators and charter school advocates are pushing to expand them across the state. But the question also challenges the public to look deeper than numbers when evaluating all schools.

### **Mixed success**

Since 2001, Missouri has allowed charter schools to operate in St. Louis and Kansas City. The independently run, publicly funded schools are founded on the idea that they will pursue education innovations, and that if they fail to provide a better alternative to traditional public schools, they should be closed.

Missouri charter schools have been a mixed bag by state standards. Twenty-one have been shut down by their sponsors for poor academics or finances. Fifteen out of the 33 charter school networks in Missouri scored below 70 percent on their annual performance reviews, which is the minimum a school district needs to be considered fully accredited.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education calculates those annual performance scores based on a variety of factors, including test scores, graduation rates and attendance. The result is a percentage of total points possible.

The scores have become Missouri's favorite measure for grading public schools and are instrumental in deciding a school district's accreditation status.

**“That’s what everybody’s looking at in the newspaper,” said Gerry Kettenbach, charter school director for the University of Missouri-Columbia. “We’re a society that boils everything down to a single number.”**

Few would say schools should not be held accountable for student success. But there is a risk in relying on any single number to judge a school, because a number cannot capture everything, good or bad, that is happening in a school.

Even a good APR score for a district can mask struggling schools and students within that district. For example, all but seven of Missouri’s 517 school districts performed as well as a fully accredited school district this year, yet more than half of Missouri students who took state tests were not proficient in math, and almost 40 percent were not proficient in English.

“The APR is much more of a health card than it is an education report card,” said Doug Thaman, executive director of the Missouri Charter Public School Association. “It’s just not fair to families because families get a false sense of how schools are doing. If all these schools are doing so great, then how come we have [hundreds of thousands of] students who are not proficient in reading, writing and mathematics?”

Sponsors and charter school leaders point out that, if they compare test scores to those of a nearby neighborhood public school, the charter school often performs as well or better.

Unlike school districts, charter schools are not accredited by Missouri and face virtually no direct consequences from the state for poor performance.

UMSL announced this month that [it will close one of its charter schools](#), Preclarus Mastery Academy, for poor academic performance. This year, its APR score was 50.6 percent compared to St. Louis Public Schools’ 68.2 percent.

But Preclarus had a higher percentage of students passing state English tests than more than a dozen St. Louis district schools, though just 5.6 percent of Preclarus’ students passed math.

Kettenbach said he thinks this focus on the annual performance review reflects a nationwide fixation on academic outcomes that compromises what charter schools are supposed to be about: innovation.

“Previously, I think you heard a lot more language around the unique mission of the school,” Kettenbach said. “A lot of folks in the charter sector would say that they don’t feel like they have the same ability to be flexible and creative because we’re looking so tightly, just as a society, about the test scores.”

### **Other measures**

Just as every charter school must have a sponsor, every school must also have a written contract with that sponsor that outlines goals and performance benchmarks the school must meet.

Many charter schools would rather be judged by the terms of those contracts than by the state reviews.

But even as charter school advocates take issue with the annual state reviews, all but two St. Louis charter schools include goals in their contracts based on those reviews.

Usually the contracts require that charter schools have an annual review score of 70 percent or above. Some set lower expectations. For example, a charter school may simply need to have better scores than nearby neighborhood public schools.

“Ideally we’d all love to see our charter schools up in the 70s, 80s and 90s in the APR because that means they’re standing on their own with no excuses to be made,” Kettenbach said.

Some charter sponsors set benchmarks for tests in addition to Missouri’s standardized assessments, to see how students compare nationally. Some sponsors expect schools to meet custom benchmarks on as many as 35 standards every year.

For example, Mendelsohn is drafting a new contract template for UMSL's charter schools that sets goals for student and teacher retention, student suspensions, financial reserve levels, as well as less tangible aspects such as school climate, safety, school board conduct, and parent satisfaction and engagement.

“There's a lot more to a school than the raw numbers in terms of student achievement,” Mendelsohn said. “No one will tell you that a (state) test gives you a full picture of whether or not students are learning or acquiring the life skills necessary to be successful beyond school.”

The state education department has also said that schools should be judged on more than just performance. It [will soon change the way it evaluates schools](#) to consider non-performance-based aspects of a school in the annual reviews, such as school climate and quality of leadership.