

At 2:39 PM, on May 16th, a tornado touched down in the City of Clayton. As measured by the damage caused, it initially varied between an EF1 and EF2, but reached its maximum intensity as it moved north and east across the City of St. Louis. Its greatest impacts were felt as the storm reached mid-EF3 status, with winds up to 152 mph, cutting a path of destruction through north St. Louis and leaving an estimated \$1.6B in damage in its wake. In all, with a width of nearly one mile, the tornado stayed on the ground for 26 minutes and traveled 23 miles. Five deaths were reported, the first tornado deaths in the City since 1959. Many others were injured. Countless residents were displaced and over 5,000 buildings were either damaged or destroyed, leaving much of north St. Louis devastated.



The response from the St. Louis community was immediate, requiring that several logistical centers be established to accept and dispense supplies for storm victims. Teams of volunteers were sent out into the affected areas to clear streets and sidewalks, to provide water and food supplies to those in need, and to begin the process of removing debris.



Newsletter Highlights

Message from the Director's Desk

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Upcoming MRA Event Thursday, September 18



Corporate donations of materials and labor were deployed where demolition or reconstruction were needed. In time, disaster declarations were made official and the City, the State, and the federal government each made substantial contributions toward the work of recovery. In total, some \$200M was committed to the relief effort from government sources but that figure is only a fraction of the amount of the loss.

The question is, “what happens next?” when the immediacy of the moment wanes and the scale of the challenges sinks in. Despite all of the efforts made to-date, the scale of the disaster is such that this is not susceptible to a short-term solution. Many areas and many buildings, for example, will simply not be repaired or re-built. In some cases, that will be due to a lack of insurance, in others it is simply the reality of total destruction. Coupled with the extent of pre-tornado vacant land and buildings in north St. Louis, thought needs to be given to how to bring back north St. Louis. Out of tragedy, in many cases, comes opportunity. Not in a commercial sense, but in a community one. This is a time for big thinking and bold initiatives, and we know that nonprofits will play an out-sized role in implementation.

Pete W. Kinsella, Jr.
Executive Director

African Diaspora Federal Credit Union

One of MRA's clients had a momentous day during the month of May. The African Diaspora Federal Credit Union in St. Louis has been granted a federal charter and share insurance coverage by the National Credit Union Association (NCUA). This marked the culmination of efforts spanning several years by the President/CEO of the African Diaspora Council in St. Louis (ADC), Michael Kodjo Anani, and is the first federally chartered financial institution established to serve the needs of the African diaspora in the United States. In a recent post, the ADC shared "The African Diaspora

Federal Credit Union (ADFCU) will serve members of the African Diaspora Council, Inc.,...," as well as members of the diaspora throughout the country. "The nonprofit's mission is to empower all people of African descent to thrive through connection, counsel, and culture, which includes promoting community self-help, financial and wealth management education." Representatives of the National Credit Union Association (NCUA) gathered with board members of the ADC to celebrate the launch. Together Credit Union served as the primary mentor for the ADFCU.

MRA Spring Networking Event



Mission Realty Advisors hosted its first social and networking event at the office of Summit Real Estate Group on May 8th, at which more than 100 were in attendance. From sponsors, to clients, to those interested in helping nonprofit organizations, this represented a cross-section of the commercial real estate community in St. Louis. For many, it was an opportunity to hear from MRA clients about the impact that MRA has provided. Former CEO Arrey Obenson spoke about our work with the International Institute of St. Louis, and Pastor Ken Jenkins talked about the trusted relationships that drove the success of the R&R Marketplace project. Still others enjoyed the chance to renew old friendships and to discuss new opportunities. Originally scheduled for two hours, many stayed beyond the 2-hour mark to share stories and to explore new potential collaborations.

With the success of this first event, another is now scheduled for September 2025, again at the Summit offices, 135 N. Meramec, Suite 600. Otis Williams, Interim CEO of St. Louis Development Corporation, will be our guest speaker, discussing the many opportunities to help revitalize the City of St. Louis. We hope you will mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 18, at 4:00 pm.**

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Please join our Board and Supporters of Mission Realty Advisors for a

**"CONVERSATION" about Real Estate in the City of St. Louis
with guest speaker *Otis Williams***

4:00 to 6:00 pm, Thursday, September 18, 2025

*at the offices of Summit Real Estate Group,
135 N. Meramec Avenue, Suite 600
(Midwest Regional Bank Bldg)*

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