

RESOLUTION 141

WHEREAS, A street is a public thoroughfare, usually paved and/or a public parcel of land adjoining building, on which people may freely assemble, interact and move about and in the City of St. Louis the majority of streets are public streets which are paid for by the taxpayers of the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis City Police, a civil organization whose members are given special legal powers by the City, State and Federal government, and whose task it is to maintain public order, to solve and prevent crimes in a legal manner as prescribed by the local, state and federal laws, are now subject to Article 18 of the City Charter, are public employees under the Civil Service of the City of St. Louis, are paid by the taxpayers of the City of St. Louis and are governed by rules and regulations covering civil service employees; and

WHEREAS, It has always been the belief of the sponsor of this Resolution that as employees of the City of St. Louis, the Police have a duty to serve and protect the citizens and to serve the citizens and visitors with curtesy and respect and **A VERY IMPORTANT DUTY OF THE ST. LOUIS POLICE IS TO RESPECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE CITIZENS** while carrying out their duties as Police Officers, and one of the constitutional rights of the Citizens of St. Louis is the right to assemble and peacefully protest; and

WHEREAS, As Employees of the City of St. Louis, the Police as often as possible should be de-escalating not escalating potential confrontational situations while carrying out their duties; and

WHEREAS, This past week Protestors convened in the City of St. Louis to express their righteous indignation through protest in the streets, over St. Louis City Circuit Court Judge Timothy Wilson rendering a not guilty verdict for the murder of Anthony Lamar Smith by former St. Louis Police Officer Jason Stockley and the **Protestors have used the chant, “Whose streets? Our Streets” as a unifying Chant for the those who felt the verdict further marginalized and disenfranchised them;** and

WHEREAS, On or about on the eve of Sunday, September 17, 2017, it is reported that St. Louis City Police in riot gear and while arresting protesters were heard chanting “Whose Streets, Our Streets, as though to mock or intimidate the protestors and that the St. Louis Acting Police Chief Lawrence O’Toole in defense of said actions stated the next day to the Press that, the Police owned the night, they Police were in control, and that the this was the Police’s City; and

WHEREAS, A Police State is defined as totalitarian state controlled by a political police force that supervises and control citizens’ activities or a government that controls the activities of its citizens using a police force or military is a police state; and

WHEREAS, While we all appreciate the dedicated hard work and long hours that the Police force of the City put in to help serve and protect all of the citizens of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, The sponsor of this resolution is aware that all employees of the City pay taxes, however the sponsor is unaware that the City Police Department employees as a unit called the Police Department, which is a department of the City of St. Louis, pay taxes and own the nights or the streets; and

WHEREAS, The sponsor of this resolution has been contacted by Citizens of the City of St. Louis who are concerned that the chanting by the St. Louis City Police “Who’s street our street” in an attempt by the City Police to intimidate, mock, and be disrespectful of the Citizens exercising their Constitutional Rights and to escalating potential confrontational and of the alleged verbiage used by the Acting Police Chief to encourage such behavior and believes such conduct is unbecoming of City Employees; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the Police and the General Public at Large to ensure the full faith and trust of Policing in the City of St. Louis and that is not accomplished if the Citizens of our City, State, and Country constitutional rights are being violated or if said Citizens have reason to believe through credible evidence or actions by the Police that the Police are marginalizing, disenfranchising, and targeting the majority Community, which in the City of St. Louis is African American, ; and

WHEREAS, If the majority of the Citizens of the City of St. Louis whether African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian American, Native American or Other perceive the Police as an occupying force instead of City Employees referenced as a group by the name “The Police” and act out their fears and perceptions with continuing legal protest and in other ways, then the Policing said Citizens, which far outnumber the Police, will be almost impossible without militarizing the Police bringing in military forces and thereby making the City Police and the military Police the occupying force that is an Illegal Police State.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT THIS HONORABLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN Direct the Public Safety Committee to convene a hearing for the purpose of requiring the acting Police Chief Lawrence O’Toole to come before the Committee to advise the members of the Board of Aldermen; if it his belief that it is the duty of the St. Louis City Police to serve and protect the Citizens of St. Louis: if the City Police as a unit, which is a department of the City of St. Louis, pay taxes so as to claim they, the Police own the streets or the night; as to the Police Policy regarding escalating versus de-escalating Police Interactions with Citizens; if it is his belief that mocking and taunting the Citizens will in any way help to diffuse and quiet the unrest in this City or is any way productive; for him to advise the members of the Board of Aldermen on his policy as to how the Police are to interact with Protestors and **to remind the Acting Police Chief that words do matter and the Police and All Elected Officials in the City of St. Louis report to the Citizens of the City of St. Louis.**

Introduced on the 22nd day of September, 2017 by:

The Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward

Adopted this 22nd day of September, 2017 as attested by:

Board of Aldermen
Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen