

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 121**

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri (ACLU -EM) began a preliminary investigation into the two St. Louis City jails, the City Justice Center and the Medium Security Institute(CJC/MSI) and later issued a report on their findings in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the investigation was initiated after numerous citizens brought allegations of abuse to the attention of the ACLU-EM; and

**WHEREAS**, six Corrections Officers (COs) were interviewed for the preliminary investigation. Nine inmates provided the ACLU-EM with information about abuse and conditions in the CJC/MSI through correspondence and direct interviews; and

**WHEREAS**, according to those interviewed, human dignity is contemptuously disregarded, and civil liberties violations and physical abuse of residents are covered up regularly by officials at both facilities. The accounts of both the COs and inmates are consistent; and

**WHEREAS**, the findings alleged in this preliminary investigation include: Inmate Assaults by COs, Inmate Assaults on Other Inmates Directed by COs, Systemic Cover Up of Incidents, False Reporting, Failure to Make Reports, Superficial Accountability Process and Interference with Reporting of Incidents, Subjective Discipline and Rewards, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Medical Neglect, Squalor, Overcrowding, Extended Incarceration, Inmates Stripped Naked and Subjected to Temperature Extremes, Negligence Resulting in Death, Intimidation, Failure to Log and Report Medical Matters, Questionable Hiring and Training, Policy Violations and Failed Oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, since this report has been issued there have been continued problems at the City jails indicating that it is imperative that the St Louis Board of Aldermen have a full understanding and comprehension of the issues alleged in this report; and

**WHEREAS**, shortly after the issuance of the ACLU report the in 2009 the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Aldermen held hearings to discuss the ACLU findings with the city Public Safety Director, Commissioner of Corrections, union representatives and representatives of the ACLU; and

**WHEREAS**, after listening to all the testimony the Public Safety Committee determined by vote to convene a work group composed of the City Public Safety Director, Commissioner of City Corrections, representatives from the ACLU, union representatives and the Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Aldermen to discuss ways the issues can be addressed; and

**WHEREAS**, after many discussions and review of data this work group determined that a civilian review process for the City jails would be the best recommendation for improvement but was unable to complete the design of it recommendation due to the ending of the Board of Aldermen's legislative session.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we direct the Public Safety Committee to convene hearings, under its authority, for the purpose of examining and reviewing the present conditions of the City jails in relation to the report of the ACLU and develop and design recommendations for improvements that it may deem necessary and we further direct the committee to include in such discussions the Director of the Department of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis and all other parties deemed appropriate by the Public Safety Committee and we further direct the committee to report its findings and recommendations to the full Board of Aldermen by Friday, October 28, 2011.

Introduced on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011 by:

**Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward**

Adopted 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen