

RESOLUTION NUMBER 346

WHEREAS, currently Missouri Senate Bill 785 and Missouri House Bill 2117 have been introduced in the Missouri Senate and Missouri House respectively which allows the City of St. Louis to control its police force; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has not had local control over its police department for over 100 years yet spends nearly one third of its budget for public safety which includes the St. Louis Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the principles of local control over police are consistent with community policing as espoused by the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department and with the basic principles of democratic governance; and

WHEREAS, state control over urban police departments was a mid-nineteenth century reform designed to stop corruption in an era when policing jobs were patronage positions and also historically grew out of the power struggles between State and local governments of a bygone era; and

WHEREAS, this reform has become outdated with the advent of professional policing principles, standardized training, certification and proper oversight from a variety civilian agencies and structures; and

WHEREAS, state legislators outside of the urban areas, St. Louis in particular, have no constituency concerns with those police departments and are therefore not held accountable for their positions and decisions on these matters and are often unfamiliar with the details of issues involving urban policing; and

WHEREAS, typically, appointed Boards are first accountable to the appointing authority, which in this case is the Governor of the State of Missouri, and not the citizens of the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, in April 1995, 68% of city voters were in favor of St. Louis police residency in a non-binding referendum and again in November 2006 64.56% were in favor of a residency requirement yet the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners still voted to allow St. Louis Police Officers to live outside the City of St. Louis illustrating that such appointed boards are often not sensitive to the needs and opinions of the local citizenry; and

WHEREAS, based on the two previous election results, it is apparent St. Louis citizens desire a strong relationship and connection between themselves and the St. Louis Police Department.

WHEREAS, Missouri Senate Bill 785 and Missouri House Bill 2117 reflect the concern for local control by not directing a particular local police department structure but allowing St. Louis to design and control it's own police force while not including local control over the police pension fund which would remain controlled by State legislation and regulations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Louis Board of Aldermen support the intent of Missouri Senate Bill 785 and Missouri House Bill 2117 which would transfer authority over the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department from the State of Missouri to the city's local authorities and that such transfer would include all powers to pass laws governing the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department in its policing function, with the exception of the governance of police pension funds and the certification of police officers as currently controlled by the State and we further encourage the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives to pass the proposed legislation which would enable local control.

Introduced on the 29th day of February, 2008 by:

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward
Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
Honorable April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward
Honorable Kenneth Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward
Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward
Honorable Alfred Wessels, Jr., Alderman 13th Ward
Honorable Stephen Gregali, Alderman 14th Ward
Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward
Honorable Bennice Jones-King, Alderwoman 21st Ward
Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward
Honorable Matthew Villa, Alderman 11th Ward

Adopted this the 29th day of February, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen