

RESOLUTION NUMBER 51

Whereas: The City of Saint Louis spends nearly one third of its budget for public safety which includes the St. Louis Police Department, and

Whereas: The City of St. Louis has not had control over its police department for over 100 years, and

Whereas: The cities of Saint Louis and Kansas City are the only two cities of their category in the nation which do not have local control over their police; 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 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Whereas: This reform has become outdated with the advent of professional policing principles, standardized training, certification and proper oversight from a variety of civilian agencies and structures; and

Whereas: State legislators outside of the urban areas, St. Louis in particular, have no constituency concerned 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 does not seemingly provide enough incentive for such an appointed board to solicit the opinions from Saint Louis citizens and be finally accountable to those citizens as illustrated by recent decisions regarding police residency; and

Whereas: Several state legislators *have sponsored* measures to return control of the St. Louis police department to the citizens of St. Louis;

Therefore Now Let it Be it resolved that the Saint Louis Board of Aldermen supports the transfer of authority over the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department from the State of Missouri to that 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.

Introduced on the 18th day of May, 2007 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st 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 Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Bennice Jones King, Alderwoman 21st Ward
Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Gregory Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Adopted this the 18th day of May, 2007, as attested by: