

Freedom Principle MO Calls for Audit of St. Louis City Crime Reporting Statistics

For Immediate Release (September 12, 2023 – St. Louis, MO)

The Freedom Principle MO is calling on the Missouri Attorney General and/or the State Department of Public Safety to audit the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department's reporting of crime statistics. "We have heard the St. Louis City politicians boasting about the alleged reduction in crime," said Byron Keelin, President of the Freedom Principle MO. "While we wish this to be true, the Freedom Principle MO doesn't believe these reports to be true,"

The Freedom Principle MO has sent a letter to Representatives Brad Christ (Dist. 96) and Justin Sparks (Dist. 110), Senators Nick Schroer (Dist. 2), and Senator Bill Eigel (Dist. 23) asking for their assistance in asking the Attorney General or State Department of Public Safety to launch an audit. "We believe the St. Louis City elected officials are reclassifying, not reporting, or underreporting crime statistics and we believe the only way to determine if these numbers are correct is to do a complete audit of the police department," said Keelin.

"The Freedom Principle MO has asked these elected officials for their assistance because they have been champions for the St. Louis City Police and for holding St. Louis elected officials accountable," said Keelin, "We believe an immediate audit is necessary so that it can be completed before the start of the 2024 legislative session. This way we can determine if any potential legislative changes need to be considered."

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The Freedom Principle MO has been monitoring the crime statistics and has expressed concern about their reporting of data since the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on November 8, 2022, reported the FIB crime statistics were wrong after St. Louis fell behind on reporting information. As part of the audit, the Freedom Principle MO is asking the state or Attorney General to investigate the following:

- Do the crime statistics being reported by the STLMPD include incident reports managed by the Crisis Management Teams?
- Do the crime statistics being reported by the STLMPD include all online incident reports submitted by residents?
- Are the crimes/incidents that are being reported to the STLMPD properly counted and/or classified correctly according to Missouri state statutes

"The residents and businesses of St. Louis City deserve the truth and transparency so they can determine if current city policies and the politicians who administer them are effective," said Keelin.

The Freedom Principle MO is a pro-citizen, pro-Missouri First organization. We are a membership-based 501(c)4 organization, acting locally and state-wide, to protect our families and our constitutionally protected liberties. We are fighting for America. We are fighting for Missouri. We are fighting for you. For more information about the Freedom Principle MO visit our website at <u>www.freedomprinciplemo.org</u>.

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