



Freedom Principle MO Slams St. Louis City's Proposed Homeless Bill of Rights Legislation

For Immediate Release

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The Freedom Principle MO is slamming St. Louis City's proposed Board Bill 126, creating a supposed "Homeless Bill of Rights." BB126 was introduced on Friday, October 6th, and revises numerous ordinances to create "safe camping areas" to deal with the exploding homeless crisis. "The proposed bill does nothing to help the homeless crisis. What this bill will do is turn the streets of St. Louis City into a public toilet," said Byron Keelin, President of the Freedom Principle MO. "Under this bill, public urination or defecating in public would no longer be a punishable offense if the person was homeless. The Board of Aldermen has now turned the homeless into treating them like livestock."

St. Louis City is being overrun by the homeless and the Board of Aldermen is developing BB126 based on how other states like Illinois, Minnesota, and California are addressing the homeless. "The progressives on the Board of Aldermen are wanting to turn St. Louis into San Francisco," said Keelin. "In San Francisco, businesses and residents are fleeing at a record pace. Why would we want to bring those types of failed policies to St. Louis? The city can't afford to lose any more people or businesses." "This is unacceptable and the residents, especially the taxpayers, need to demand a better plan to deal with the homeless crisis their policies created."

The proposed bill creates encampments on public property and would require the city taxpayers to provide security and services to these encampments. The city would also be required to provide, at taxpayer expense, services to include toilets, handwashing stations, an outreach and needs assessment coordinator, and waste management, such as garbage and recyclable collection per every 10 people. "The city cannot pick up the trash and recycling now for residents," said Keelin. "Currently city alleys are full of overflowing dumpsters and recycling bins, and now we are expecting them to keep up the trash and recycling from these homeless encampments?"

Another provision of this bill would include the right to vote, and “receive and maintain documentation necessary to provide identity for voting without discrimination due to their lack of housing status.” “This is going to create voter fraud,” said Keelin. “If they are homeless, how can we prove they are a resident of Missouri or are a U.S. Citizen?”

This bill would also make it harder for residents to seek Neighborhood Orders of Protection and would prohibit the police from removing the homeless from public spaces. “This will endanger the public safety and could be violating the rights of law-abiding residents by allowing them to be harassed by panhandlers or loiterers,” said Keelin. “Furthermore, this also prevents the police from removing the homeless from public spaces like parks or Metro Link and bus station stops.”

The Freedom Principle MO is encouraging residents and businesses to contact President of the Board of Aldermen Megan Green’s office at 314-622-4114 or e-mail her at boa-president@stlouis-mo.gov. “Residents need to tell her not to turn St. Louis City into San Francisco and block BB126,” said Keelin. “We are also encouraging the governor and the Missouri Legislature to pursue legislation to address the continued disastrous policies being pushed by these incompetent progressives.”

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 www.freedomprinciplemo.org.

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