



Freedom Principle MO Slams City of St. Louis Leadership for Useless Ordinance Offered as Crime Reduction Strategy

For Immediate Release

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The Freedom Principle MO is slamming St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones and the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen for passing and signing Board Bill 29 restricting Missourian’s right to openly carry a firearm. The bill was signed into law by Mayor Jones on Thursday, August 3rd.

“Note that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution does not include an asterisk for residents of the City of St. Louis! This is just a lazy attempt to cover up failed crime reduction tactics,” said Byron Keelin, President of the Freedom Principle MO. “Instead of trying to find real solutions, these city officials waste time on unenforceable and illegal ordinances. This time they are further endangering police officers and working to take away guns from law-abiding citizens. This while Mayor Jones and her friends, like radical cop-hating antagonist Representative Cori Bush, themselves enjoy private security.”

Board Bill 29 would “Prohibit persons from openly carrying or displaying any firearm readily capable of lethal use within the City unless the person possesses a valid concealed carry endorsement or permit.” “In addition to being in conflict with the U.S. Constitution, this bill is in direct conflict with Missouri Statute 21.750 Section 3 (2)(b)(c),” said Keelin.

“Basically, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen have passed a useless and unenforceable ordinance,” said Keelin. “According to Missouri Statute 21.750 Section 3 (2)(b)(c), the police can’t approach a person openly carrying a firearm unless they are suspected of a crime, and if the police stop them, they can’t take away their firearm unless they are under arrest.”

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“What the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen have actually done is put the police in a more dangerous situation,” said Keelin. “Now an officer will be expected to confront someone who is openly carrying a firearm. This is likely to lead to more potential violent confrontations between citizens and police.”

A 2020 survey by the National Shooting Sports Foundation indicates that gun purchases by Black Americans rose 58.2 percent in 2020.” In a July 2022 NPR article, they said the reason for these gun purchases was “They largely own guns for protection; many feel the government does not do enough to protect their safety.” Black Americans make up 44.8% of the residents of the City of St. Louis.

“Increased ownership of guns in the Black community is a direct rebuke of the Defund the Police movement. One really must wonder about how these “leaders” advocate for the Black citizens of St. Louis. Continually defunding the police, failing to hold criminals accountable, and now cramming down an illegal ordinance focused on criminalizing legal gun ownership, which is on the rise in the Black community, well, that’s not exactly advocacy in my book”, Keelin said.

The Freedom Principle MO is working with St. Louis residents and Missouri legislators to develop legislation for the next legislative session to address these problems. “We need to return police control back to the state. We need to allow the governor to appoint a special prosecutor, should the next prosecutor turn out to be someone worse than Kim Gardner, and we must do what we can to eliminate the corruption and dumb ideas coming out of the Board of Aldermen,” said Keelin.

“Their policies are so transparent - they don’t give a damn about the residents.”

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 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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