

THE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ST. LOUIS

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March 30, 2022

The Honorable Tishaura O. Jones
Mayor, City of St. Louis
City Hall - Room 200
1200 Market Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Re: Lawsuit Over Police Officers' Retirement Benefits

Dear Mayor Jones:

The purpose of this letter is to ensure you are aware of litigation activity the City of St. Louis has unnecessarily involved you in that would seriously impact the long-term stability of many of the citizens of this great city. The case is *Crawford v. The Police Retirement System, the City of St. Louis and the State of Missouri*, case No. 2122-CC00751 currently pending in Division 20 before Judge Joan Moriarty. We are asking for your assistance and support to stop this litigation for the betterment of public safety for all citizens.

While the city is named as a defendant in this case, we strongly suspect that some elements or persons associated with the city are encouraging this action, perhaps even funding the Plaintiff's efforts. In February, the City Counselor's Office filed a legal brief plainly supporting the efforts of the Plaintiff, Mr. Crawford, to eliminate (not replace) key elements of the retirement plan for thousands of future, current and retired St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) officers.

The City of St. Louis lost this same litigation effort in 2007 in a case that went to the Missouri Supreme Court for the final decision. That decision was broad and concluded that the City of St. Louis has the legal obligation to fund the police pensions at whatever level the actuaries determine and the PRS Board certifies. Nothing has changed in the law that would upend the Supreme Court's decision. Therefore, the chances of this litigation succeeding on behalf of the Plaintiff is negligible, and the negative impact it could have on the reputation of the city and those behind it is huge.

Current litigation brought against the PRS and very recently supported by the city would:

- Eliminate, and in essence defund, significant and substantial elements of the Police Retirement System;
- Expend taxpayer resources and unnecessarily involve the city in a lawsuit that has little chance of succeeding due to previous litigation;
- Encourage hundreds of experienced police officers to retire before the current system is dramatically altered as a result of this suit;
- Threaten hundreds of families and seniors who rely on the PRS to keep their homes and food on the table.

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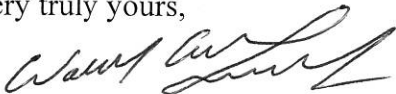
We certainly understand you have a fiduciary obligation to all citizens, including those police officers who live and work in the city. However, with the Rams settlement and the federal relief funds on the books, we believe it is a bad time to be telling the community that financial resources are so tight you must take away the retirement benefits that provide financial stability to retired and disabled police officers and their families.

This litigation began prior to your election. Regardless, you have the ability to bring the right people to the table and bring this litigation to an end.

If you would like to learn more about the details of this litigation, we would be happy to talk with you or your staff about what this means to the future of public safety in the city.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wallace K. Leopold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "W".

Wallace K. Leopold
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Police Retirement System of St. Louis