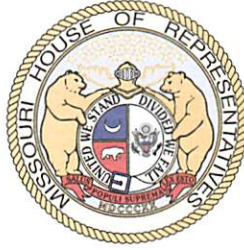


SEND TO TOM

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TISHAURA O. JONES
Deputy Minority Whip
State Representative
District 63

March 30, 2010

Members of the House of Representatives

Dear Colleagues:

Once again, I am forced to defend myself against further attempts to mischaracterize and mislead by the Ethical Society of Police (ESOP) and the St. Louis Police Officers Association (SLPOA). In a letter delivered to most of you this week, the ESOP have decided to show that they are capable of sounding just as stupid as the SLPOA in expressing their opposition to Local Control. The ESOP personally visited my office last year IN SUPPORT of Local Control. Yet now, they (the ESOP) seem to be making the same irreverent arguments about the size of the Board of Aldermen, pensions and changing the City Charter that their counterpart, the SLPOA, made last week. They argue that Representative Jamilah Nasheed and I should "focus of fixing city government first". Ladies and gentlemen, policemen living in glass houses should not throw stones. The recent scandals in the missing towing money, missing drug money, and a state audit that found serious deficiencies in the fiscal management of the Police Department under the current system of State Control, are just a few fixes that begs for the transfer of Local Control. The ESOP and the SLPOA continue to compare the size of the Board of Aldermen to Local Control. However, in 2004, a series of ballot issues were put before the citizens of the City of St. Louis that included a Charter amendment to reduce the Board of Aldermen from twenty-eight to fifteen. If the ESOP and SLPOA were concerned about the size of the Board of Aldermen, no one knew. Disingenuous statements about the size of the Board of Aldermen, the condition of city schools and accountability are red herrings from people whose salaries are paid by the taxpayers of the City of St. Louis who do not want to live and therefore not vote in the City of St. Louis.

I urge you to reject these spurious arguments from the ESOP and SLPOA and vote to give the taxpayers of the City of St. Louis control of their Police Department.

Sincerely,

Tishaura O. Jones
63rd District