

COMMISSIONER'S CORRESPONDENCE – Highlighting SLMPD's proven crime strategies, and the promise they bring to St. Louisans

It is an honor to serve as your Police Commissioner, and I am proud to lead and support the dedicated members of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

I am excited to share this message with you and look forward to communicating with each of you through this platform on a regular basis. At least once each month, I will be sharing with you what we are doing at SLMPD, and will provide analysis on crime trends and details on how we react to crime patterns that emerge. I will also share a brief story, or stories, capturing examples of the outstanding service that I see our police officers and civilian employees providing to our community each and every day.

I have spent the initial months of my tenure attending community meetings, getting to know residents from neighborhoods across our city, and learning about the concerns of our community. I have also focused on working with our command staff and police officers to assess our operations. One of my first priorities has been to review the crime prevention strategies that our agency has in place, and to work towards integrating a number of proven, evidence-based strategies that show promise in making our city safer.

During my time as Chief of Crime Control Strategies at the Chicago Police Department, and subsequently as Chief of Police in Wilmington, Delaware, I have had the opportunity to learn a great deal about crime strategies, and about how police departments can improve public safety. Moving from a department with more than 11,000 police officers to an agency with just over 300, I have also learned that these strategies can be effective regardless of scale.

Over the past several months, my team and I have been working diligently to make adjustments to our deployment and organizational structure to implement a range of strategies. We consider these to be “layered,” recognizing that no single strategy can address every type of crime, and that to be effective you need to work on several fronts. These strategies include a focus on the community – with the traditional tenets of **community policing** as well as **district integrity**, which involves assigning the same officers to the same patrol areas each time they report for duty. They also include **intelligence-led policing**, as well as partnerships with **community organizations**, partner **law enforcement agencies** and **prosecutors**. We are also in the process of implementing **CompStat**, which helps ensure greater accountability among supervisors and helps better focus deployment and resources to address emerging crime trends and patterns. These strategies also include a focus on **recruitment, retention and training**, to make sure that we remain committed to keeping our department staffed with well-trained police officers who are ready to protect and serve our neighborhoods. On top of this, our agency embraces **alternatives to policing** through initiatives like the City's Cops and Clinicians Program, and the Office of Violence Prevention. Finally, we are also working towards adopting the strategy of **focused deterrence** to help address the few individuals responsible for driving the majority of violent crime in our community.

There is no silver bullet when it comes to crime prevention, but each of our core strategies has been proven effective in communities large and small across the United States. I have seen firsthand how these approaches to 21st century law enforcement have brought about historic reductions in crime in other communities, and I know these strategies bring the promise of similar progress in St. Louis.

I invite you to review our [Comprehensive Public Safety Strategy](#) to learn more about each of these strategies, and how we are working to make your neighborhoods safer.

In closing, I'd like to share how much I have enjoyed bringing back our department's Community Roll Calls. It has been heartwarming to see how the community has responded so positively to these, and to see residents interacting with our police officers as they prepare for their shift. I look forward to this initiative continuing, and to reaching more neighborhoods in St. Louis!