



PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION  
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NEWS RELEASE

## METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

June 23, 2017

### **SLMPD Announces Launch of Safe Place Initiative to Combat Crime against LGBTQ Citizens & Visitors**

**St. Louis, Mo.** – Today, the Metropolitan Police Department announced the launch of the Safe Place initiative, an effort to reduce and combat crimes committed against the city's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) residents and visitors.

The mission of the Safe Place program is to have signage displayed by local supporting community members, businesses and organizations that work closely with the police department in our effort. Safe Place locations provide secure places for victims of anti-LGBTQ related crimes and harassment to call 911 and wait for police to respond.

Businesses or organizations in the City of St. Louis can visit our website at [www.slmpd.org](http://www.slmpd.org) or email [safeplace@slmpd.org](mailto:safeplace@slmpd.org) to request a Safe Place decal or obtain additional information on the program.

The department's LGBTQ Liaison Officer, Police Officer Christopher Pederson, will be available to talk about the initiative at Park Avenue Coffee, a participating business, on Friday, June 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. A representative from Park Avenue Coffee will also be available for interviews.

The first Safe Place initiative was launched by the Seattle Police Department in May 2015 and has since expanded to more than 60 cities across the country.

**Who: St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department**  
**What: Launch of SLMPD Safe Place**  
**When: Friday, June 23, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.**  
**Where: Park Avenue Coffee – Downtown**  
**417 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St.**

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