



## *CAPCR Shout Out*

After Prop P, Now What?

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Tuesday's Prop P vote results show that St. Louis city residents want more accountability from elected officials and the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

More than 40 percent of the voters sent a clear message that they are not willing to give up their hard-earned dollars to continue with the current state of public safety. Although backers of Prop P carried the day, we will continue to advocate for a complete and total culture change in the police department and a shift in funding priorities that raise the quality of life citywide.

Specifically, the Board of Aldermen needs to step up its oversight of the SLMPD's fiscal impact on the city and review internal policies across the board including but not limited to the department's use of force guidelines, moonlighting, residency, promotions and training. A financial audit would be a good place to start and cracking down on police brutalizing residents would be a necessary follow up.

The Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression (CAPCR) has been advocating for a re-envisioning of public safety that de-emphasizes the ineffective arrest, prosecute and incarcerate model while addressing the systemic pathology, economic inequality, and underlying societal foundations of crime and violence in our communities.

Prop P monies have been earmarked for the circuit attorney's office, hiring of police and firefighters, pensions, equipment and youth services and community development. CAPCR opposes using Prop P revenue to continue militarizing the police—they should not be indistinguishable from the U.S. armed forces in dress and weaponry, like the tactical SWAT unit.

The best public safety environment would include the following elements:

- Restorative justice alternatives to incarceration for misdemeanors and nonviolent crimes;
- Encouraging economic activity that creates jobs and provides opportunities for starting businesses;
- Community policing that proactively solves problems instead of generating resentment and mutual distrust;

- Shifting the handling of certain situations away from law-enforcement and into the hands of capable social workers;
- Real accountability for police abuse and harassment of city residents;
- Establishing an autonomous Department of Civilian Oversight with the resources and personnel to function effectively.

This list is by no means exhaustive, but it is intended to set in motion a transformative culture change in the SLMPD and serve as a beneficial model for other cities.