

# Coalition Against Police Crimes & Repression

[www.capcr-stl.org](http://www.capcr-stl.org)



## **Statement: O'Toole Lawsuit**

***CAPCR Blasts former Chief for Discrimination Allegation***

*Monday, July 23, 2018*

**PRESS STATEMENT // IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**St. Louis, MO** - The Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression (CAPCR) strongly condemns former St. Louis interim Police Chief, Lt. Col. Larry O'Toole for filing a complaint with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights and another with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, alleging employment discrimination by the city of St. Louis.

CAPCR views the complaints as a resentful disparagement of the city's selection as police chief of Col. John Hayden, who is black, over O'Toole, who is white. We see clearly the racist implications of these complaints. We find the presumption that O'Toole should have been promoted over a well-qualified black candidate tired and offensive.

Maj. Michael Caruso in 2016 and Sgt. David Bonenberger in 2013, both white cops who successfully sued the SLMPD with claims of being snubbed for less qualified black candidates, relied on those same racist presumptions. O'Toole can reasonably expect that St. Louis' difficulty with getting racial equity right will also land him a big payday.

There was a public process for the police chief search; it was clear that O'Toole was not wanted. And for good reason:

- O'Toole appears to have lied when conducting a press conference about the shooting of a black officer by a white officer in an effort to make the shooting appear more justified.
- His leadership of the department during the Stockley verdict protests brought the city a federal injunction demanding that the police department obey the U.S. Constitution and the law, and a civil rights investigation by the Department of Justice.
- O'Toole also inappropriately boasted that the police "owned the night" after the brutal kettling arrests at a downtown protest that included the beating and arrest of a credentialed journalist.

Despite all of this, O'Toole was retained as Hayden's assistant chief and offered a \$7,000 raise as a "retention bonus." Any number of his racially-tinged misdeeds should have resulted in his termination. He now has the audacity to file claims that he is the victim of racial discrimination! It is past time that the city part ways with O'Toole.

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