

RE: Finding Funds for the Neighborhood Stabilization Team

I recently learned that you are championing the reduction of the number of St Louis Aldermen from 28 to 14, and that, under your administration, funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Team (NST) is already cut.

As you know, the city's neighborhoods are in desperate need of stabilization. The NSOs educate residents on how to prompt city departments to resolve the immediate issues--which are symptoms, and they encourage residents to request legislation that will address root problems. The service requests that they create or facilitate resolve issues, act as data points that show where there is a need for an education, legislation, and enforcement initiative, and serve as the feedback loop to determine an initiative's effectiveness.

If you succeed in employing fewer Aldermen, the city's budget should then be able to fund *more* Neighborhood Stabilization Officers. Those additional NSOs would serve as necessary supports to address city and neighborhood concerns that might otherwise fall through the cracks once the workload doubles for the remaining Aldermen. Our own NSO is *phenomenal*--a model collaborator and a great liaison between Ward 2 and City Hall. Please consider the negative ripple effect when reviewing these entities for any funding changes.

By simultaneously targeting Aldermen and NSOs for cuts, you are effectively dismantling the channels by which the city heals itself. St Louis' downward spiral will be hurried along when the residents are unheard and their representatives are overburdened. I urge you to reconsider your position on these matters and rectify the NST budget by some supplement that offsets the approved cuts.

Thank you for your prompt attention.
Sincerely,