



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

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JOSHUA D. HAWLEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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September 16, 2017

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner
1114 Market Street, Room 401
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
(314) 622-4941
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Dear Circuit Attorney Gardner:

In the wake of the verdict in the prosecution of Jason Stockley and the public response to that verdict, my Office stands ready to provide you with any assistance, support, and resources necessary to protect the lives, property, and constitutional rights of the residents of St. Louis.

I am committed to upholding the constitutional rights of all Missourians, including the rights of peaceful protesters to engage in free speech and peaceable assembly. However, no person has the right to engage in violence or crime. Such wrongdoing undermines the liberty of peaceful protesters. Any individuals who would use protests as an opportunity to commit crimes and to harm our communities must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

As you know, Missouri law criminalizes acts of violence, assault, vandalism, riot, unlawful assembly, attacks on police officers, and interference with police officers in the discharge of their duties—especially when such acts threaten the peace and security of our entire community. It is vital for the safety of the citizens of St. Louis, law enforcement officers, and the lawful protesters that such laws be enforced.

I know that this weekend's events may result in substantial caseload increases for your Office. My Office is prepared and available to investigate and prosecute such cases, and to provide any other necessary assistance to your Office. As you know, Section 27.030 of the Missouri Revised Statutes authorizes the Governor to direct the Attorney General and his assistants to aid any prosecuting or circuit attorney in the discharge of their duties.

Further, Section 56.110 of the Missouri Revised Statutes authorizes a prosecuting attorney to seek appointment of a special prosecutor, including the Attorney General, in cases of conflict of interest, including cases in which a prosecuting attorney's existing caseload limits the ability to prosecute a new case effectively. Pursuant to these statutes, my Office stands ready to assist you as needed.

Thank you for the important work that you and your Office do to protect the St. Louis community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua D. Hawley".

JOSHUA D. HAWLEY
Attorney General