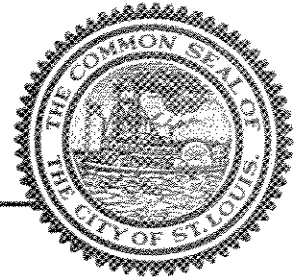


ALDERMAN ANTONIO D. FRENCH
CITY OF SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI
TWENTY-FIRST WARD



August 12, 2011

Mr. Sam Dotson
Director of Operation
Mayor's Office
Room 200, City Hall
St. Louis, MO 63103

Mr. Dotson, realizing you are new to the Slay administration, let me fill you in on a few facts: until I was elected nearly two and a half years ago, this administration had, for over eight years, allowed O'Fallon Park to deteriorate to the point that it was completely abandoned by the families of the City of St. Louis.

Glass collected in the pebbles underneath the broken swings. Chipping paint fell from the historic boathouse. Drug dealers operated freely around the polluted lake. In fact, the only "public safety measure" I saw during that time was the chopping down of dozens of trees in the name of increasing visibility as police occasionally drove by the park, rarely actually cruising through it.

Through my efforts over the past 24 months, O'Fallon Park has reclaimed its status as the largest, best park in north St. Louis. And before long, especially with the addition of the coming recreation complex, it will be one of the best parks in the region.

Of all the improvements that have been made to O'Fallon Park in recent months, the addition of a couple of speed bumps was really a relatively small addition. In fact, I was surprised when I experienced the first push back when the bill was heard in committee. I was even more surprised when it became the subject of a long debate on the floor of the Board of Aldermen. But it was not until the mayor vetoed the bill that I realized this has nothing to do with speed bumps at all. This has nothing to do with O'Fallon Park or the safety of people who visit it. After all, neither of those things have ever received this level of attention from this administration in 10 years. No, Mr. Dotson, this is about politics.

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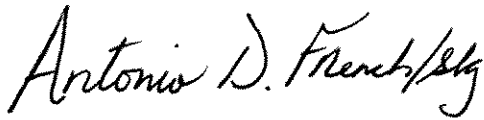
ANTONIO@21STWARD.ORG

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Mr. Sam Dotson

As such, this matter will be taken up again by the Board of Aldermen when we reconvene in September. After that, either the speed bumps will be installed or I will work with the Parks Department to improve the situation another way, in the same manner as I have worked with Parks to bring O'Fallon to where it is today, without any help or attention from this mayor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antonio D. French" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Antonio D. French
Alderman, 21st Ward

Adf

cc: Mayor Francis Slay
President Lewis Reed
Members Board of Aldermen
Gary Bess
Todd Waelterman
Rich Bradley
Mary Ellen Ponder