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March 7, 2019

24th Ward Progressive Democrats
Attn: Jean Corbett, Treasurer
1241 Graham St
St. Louis, MO 63139
(314) 775-1338

Ancient Order of Hibernians
Attn: Dennis Pogue
6614 Clayton Rd, #158
Richmond Hts, MO 63117
(314) 520-6281

Mr. Dennis Pogue,

We represent the 24th Ward Progressive Democrats and members of the broader St. Louis region who have signed below. Like you, we are proud of our community and the culture it represents. Each year, our members are active in the festivities around the St. Patrick's Day parade held annually in our neighborhood. We are grateful for the over three decades of the Ancient Order of Hibernians selecting our neighborhood as the location of this beloved event. We look forward to many more years of celebration on March 17th with our community partners.

This year, the Ancient Order of Hibernians have selected Robert (Bob) McCulloch, former prosecutor of St. Louis County, as the parade Grand Marshal. We believe this is inappropriate for our community for a variety of troubling reasons.

As a prosecutor of St. Louis County, McCulloch's tenure is fraught with policies that discriminate based on income and race. His policies on cash bail directly impact the poor; setting bail so high that many of those who are accused of minor offenses are imprisoned pending trial. Often this temporary incarceration causes loss of income, housing, and the ability to support families. McCulloch's mishandling of the 2000 Jack-in-the-Box shootings and Michael Brown's killing in 2014 highlighted racial discrimination in the office and exacerbated racial inequities in St. Louis.

In August 2018, Mr. McCulloch was invited to speak at the Oregon District Attorneys Association annual conference. During McCulloch's presentation he showed a photo of four young black men standing on a street in Ferguson, Missouri. He commented, pointing to the photo, "This is what we are dealing with." The St. Louis County Prosecutor's remarks were so offensive throughout his speech that many in his audience walked out. Many more refused to attend the evening dinner where McCulloch was to be the keynote speaker.

Regardless of how any one individual or organization views the tenure of Mr. McCulloch, it is clear that he has been a racially divisive figure. The voters of St. Louis County decisively removed him from office and instead elected a forward thinking and innovative prosecutor who immediately began dismantling some of the policies that were explicitly discriminatory. The decision of the AOH to honor Mr. McCulloch as Grand Marshal in 2019 is tone deaf to the concerns of the broader community and to the will of the voters and the mandate they gave to Mr. McCulloch's replacement.



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We understand that Mr. McCulloch has long been a supporter of the parade and often participates in AOH events, but we do not believe that Mr. McCulloch's connections to the AOH tip the scales when weighed against the harm and systemic inequity that he has consistently perpetuated within our community.

The 24th Ward Progressive Democrats appreciate the sponsorship of The Ancient Order of Hibernians in the Dogtown parade and believe AOH to be a good steward of the community. We respectfully request that our concerns are considered regarding his appointment, and Bob McCulloch be removed as Grand Marshal, replaced with a more appropriate representation of not only the AOH values, but those of the people of St. Louis.

Respectfully,

Carolyn McMahon - 24th Ward Progressive Democrats, President

Karen Smith - 24th Ward Progressive Democrats, Vice President

Bruce Carlson - 24th Ward Progressive Democrats, Secretary

Jean Corbett - 24th Ward Progressive Democrats, Treasurer

Stephanie Herndon - 24th Ward Progressive Democrats, Director of Membership

Liz Zanter - 24th Ward Progressive Democrats, Director of Communications

Senator Karla May, District 4 Missouri State Senate

Representative Wiley Price, District 084 Missouri House of Representatives

Kate Lovelady, Dogtown resident and Leader of Ethical Society of St. Louis

William Hagen, Owner Heavy Riff Brewing Company, LLC & HRBC Holdings, LLC

Gregory Meyer Jr., Owner Heavy Riff Brewing Company, LLC & HRBC Holdings, LLC