

June 26, 2015

Over the past year, there have been many improvements in the St. Louis County Municipal Court system. We support a fair and just law enforcement and court system for all, and we will continue to work with the Municipal League, NAACP and the Department of Justice to ensure that Ladue is operating with the highest integrity, openness and transparency.

Tonight, KMOV-TV aired a program that included a segment about the City of Ladue as well as other municipalities in St. Louis County. On June 10, 2015, a KMOV reporter staged a camera outside of Ladue City Hall in an effort to interview citizens for this program who had matters before Ladue Municipal Court. After assuming that African Americans outnumbered Caucasians three to one and that Caucasians more frequently had lawyers than African Americans, the reporter was provided the following facts:

On the evening of June 10, there were 67 citizens with official business before the Court: 36 Caucasians, 30 African Americans and 1 Asian. There were 14 African Americans, 12 Caucasians, and 1 Asian citizen who were accompanied by lawyers:

Current Traffic Safety Policing Strategy

The Ladue Police Department has a very clear traffic safety policing strategy focused on hazardous moving violations that have a high correlation with accidents and injuries. Examples of these are speeding, reckless driving, rolling stops, driving under the influence, etc. The results of the strategies over the past five years have been very successful.

- 88% of all traffic tickets are written for hazardous and reckless moving violations
- Less than 12% of all traffic tickets are written for violations unrelated to safety such as expired license plate stickers.
- According to the US Census Bureau, St. Louis County has a 23.7% African American population.
- In 2013, the City of Ladue collected \$464,213 in Court fines and costs for all violations, which is 3.9% of general operating revenue according to the 2013 audit. The 2014 audit is currently being conducted and the city will make those numbers available once the audit is complete.

2014 City of Ladue	
Number of stops	4107
Summons Issued	3526
Number of Black Drivers	575
Number of White Drivers	3341
% Black Stops	14.0%
% White Stops	81.3%
Searches of Black Drivers	8

Searches of White drivers	19
# of citizen complaints against Ladue Police	0

We understand the concerns many citizens have about how municipal courts operate in St. Louis County. We are very proud of the way the Ladue Municipal Court operates, and we are pleased to share important information with you.

City of Ladue Municipal Court

The Ladue Municipal Court handles cases filed by the Ladue Police Department and the Ladue Building Department. These cases include traffic tickets, non-traffic summonses (stealing, assault, peace disturbance, possession of controlled substance and paraphernalia, liquor violations, etc.) and building violations.

Some important facts about the Ladue Municipal Court:

- The Court is open to all who would like to observe the operations.
- City of Ladue fines and fees are among the lowest in St. Louis County.
- In 2013, Court fines and costs for all violations represented 3.9% of general operating revenue.
- The Court encourages citizens to appear at their assigned hearings, regardless of a person's ability to pay a ticket, fee or fine.
- The Court participates in an amnesty program.
- The City of Ladue does not deploy the practice of permitting people to sit in jail until the Court convenes each month.
- The Court has and will continue to offer payment plans to citizens who require this assistance.
- If a citizen has a concern about how he/she was treated in the City of Ladue Municipal Court, they can contact the Ladue City Clerk or the Honorable Maura B. McShane, Circuit Judge and Presiding Judge with administrative authority over the St. Louis County Municipal Court System.

It's important for citizens to understand that under no circumstances would City of Ladue officials direct, condone or tolerate racial profiling by any member of our police department or unfair treatment of citizens by our Courts. The city takes all citizen concerns seriously. Should you have any information regarding this matter, please contact Mayor Nancy Spewak or Police Chief Rich Wooten.