



Friday, July 8, 2016

Within the last 24 hours, five police officers were killed and seven more were wounded as they protected the constitutional rights of protestors to demonstrate, in this case against the actions of police officers in other cities. Earlier today, a police officer in Ballwin was shot in the neck during a traffic stop.

A peaceful and passionate protest was held yesterday in downtown Columbia. Yesterday's demonstrations across the country were a response to the tragic police shootings in Baton Rouge and Falcon Heights. Officials in both of those communities have moved quickly to ensure that these questionable shootings are independently and thoroughly investigated.

Here in Columbia, we understand there is a direct correlation between social unrest and social inequity. I am proud that our City Council has made social equity and transparency a centerpiece of its decision-making. And, I am proud that Columbia's Police Officers protected the safety--and First Amendment rights--of both protesters and the public.

I do not know the training protocols or police policies of Baton Rouge or Falcon Heights, but I do know the professional standards and excellence by which Columbia's police officers perform their duties every day. I know these everyday heroes are understaffed and overworked. I have great appreciation for the countless professional interactions our men and women have every day with the community they are asked to protect and serve.

Brian Treece
Mayor