



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **POLICE IN ST. LOUIS LOSING CONFIDENCE AND PATIENCE WITH CIRCUIT ATTORNEY GARDNER**

Patrick Yoes, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, raised concerns with a disturbing national trend of local district attorneys declining to prosecute cases as well as making extremely lenient plea bargains.

“There is a disturbing nationwide trend of our local prosecutors failing to fulfill their public responsibilities,” said Patrick Yoes, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police. “Officers enforcing the law need to be confident that their counterparts in the courtroom will use the full force of law to take and keep bad guys off the streets. Clearly, Ms. Gardner has lost the confidence of the men and women in the St. Louis Police Department, which compromises the safety of the public at large.”

Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner recently took to social media just hours after officers with the St. Louis Police Department were forced to shoot an armed assailant. In the post, Gardner joined Alderwoman Megan Green in saying that the interaction between police and their attacker “never should have happened” because Gardner won’t prosecute suspects in possession of marijuana unless they have triple the amount required for felony charges. The assailant was a recently paroled felon who unlawfully possessed the firearm he attempted to fire at the investigating officers. In addition to the illegal firearm, the offender had marijuana and other drugs—enough to constitute felony possession. He was dealing these drugs from his car, which had a seven year-old girl in it.

“These irresponsible comments were made before a full review of the facts and reflect a lack of reverence for the law and for due process,” said Yoes. “This cavalier approach to the administration of justice puts citizens and those sworn to protect them at increased risk. It also undermines the integrity of the criminal justice system. If the police department loses confidence in their local prosecutors, the loss of the public’s trust will not be far behind.”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 349,000 members.