

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-4415
Fax: (573) 751-9758
E-Mail:
Jamilah.Nasheed@senate.mo.gov



COMMITTEES:
General Laws
Governmental Accountability and
Fiscal Oversight
Gubernatorial Appointments
Jobs, Economic Development and
Local Government

DISTRICT ADDRESS
4710 Lee Street
St. Louis, MO 63115
Tele: (314)-385-6293

Jamilah Nasheed
State Senator
District 05

July 7, 2014

Ms. Lori Thaman:
Executive Director
Fair St. Louis
301 Prospect Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Ms. Thaman:

First, let me congratulate you on the success of Fair St. Louis 2014, which featured for the first time Forest Park as the venue for this unique St. Louis event. I write, however, because it has been expressed to me personally, and I have observed through social media, concerns being voiced that the Fair St. Louis activities in the park did not live up to standards for true diversity.

For example, it was voiced that the black entertainers were assigned to the smaller stage area away from the main area, and that their audiences of predominantly people of color were in effect segregated from the main area. I bring this to your attention because I understand from news accounts that you are planning to have sometime soon a debriefing meeting with the Fair St. Louis staff and partners about the July 4th event, and I would hope you would place this issue and the issue of diversity high on the agenda of that meeting.

I think you would agree with me that we never as a City want to return to those days when Fair St. Louis, then known as the Veiled Prophet Parade, was the subject of deep racial strife and tension, so I deeply appreciate your hearing my concern and addressing the diversity issue.

Thank you, and again, congratulations on a successful event.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our office (573) 751-4415.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamilah Nasheed".

Jamilah Nasheed
State Senator

Cc: Julie Hauser