

## **Media Advisory**

### **What:**

Tavis Smiley, in conversation with a multidisciplinary panel of local and national experts, will examine poverty in St. Louis, with a focus on police-community relations.

The discussion will explore solutions and public policy challenges in the St. Louis community. The panel will also examine the impact on education, health, homelessness, foreclosure, national security, the prison industrial complex and other issues that are deteriorating our nation. The panel will also examine how to empower those living in poverty to become their own best advocates through civic action.

### **Who:**

- ❖ Colonel Jon Belmar, Chief of Police, St. Louis County Police Department
- ❖ Felicia Pulliam, J.D., Director of Development, FOCUS St. Louis
- ❖ Nancy E. Rice, Executive Director, Better Together St. Louis
- ❖ James Clark, VP, Community Outreach, Better Family Life, Inc.
- ❖ Norman A. White Ph.D., Associate Professor Criminology and Criminal Justice, Saint Louis University School of Social Work-Tegler Hall

### **When:**

Thursday, November 12, 2015

5:00pm – Press Opportunity

6:00pm – 7:00pm - Town Hall Discussion

7:00pm – 7:30pm - Audience Q&A Session

7:30pm – Event Concludes

*Check-in begins at 5:00 p.m.*

### **Where:**

Saint Louis University- Busch Student Center

20 N. Grand Boulevard

Room: BSC 173

St. Louis, MO 63103

Website: <http://www.slu.edu/busch-student-center>

### **Why:**

According to a Rand study, in an era where information technology and social media has the potential to increase transparency of police activities in many ways, building and maintaining trust can be a challenge. Steps taken by both police organizations and the public to build



understanding and relationships can sustain trust through tragic incidents that occur in the course of policing — whether it is a citizen's or officer's life that is lost.

According to statistics released by the St. Louis Police Department homicides so far this year total 153, up from 101 during the first nine months of 2014 and 79 in the first nine months of 2013. Although race is a dividing line, those who died by police gunfire often had much in common. Most were living in poverty and had a history of run-ins with law enforcement over mostly small-time crimes, sometimes because they were emotionally troubled.

[www.endingpoverty.net](http://www.endingpoverty.net)

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