

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 142 CS INTRODUCED BY PRESIDENT REED,**
2 **ALDERMAN CRAIG SCHMID, ALDERWOMAN SHARON TYUS,**
3 **ALDERWOMAN CAROL HOWARD, ALDERWOMAN BETH MURPHY,**
4 **ALDERMAN THOMAS VILLA, ALDERMAN SCOTT OGILVIE,**
5 **ALDERWOMAN TAMMIKA HUBBARD, ALDERWOMAN MARLENE DAVIS,**
6 **ALDERWOMAN LYDA KREWSON, ALDERWOMAN DONNA BARINGER**
7

8 An ordinance pertaining to the establishment of an Poet Laureate position for the
9 City of St. Louis, creating a Poet Laureate Task Force and an effective date.

10 WHEREAS, poetry is a powerful form of literature that honors self-expression and
11 promotes understanding within communities; and

12 WHEREAS, poetry has long been used to elicit a range of emotions and sentiments about
13 place and time, culture and society; and

14 WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has an interest in supporting the vibrant and growing
15 community of poets and expanding opportunities for young writers throughout the region.

16 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

17 **SECTION ONE.** The Poet Laureate shall be nominated to a two (2) year term and serve
18 with the objective of:

- 19 a) celebrating the written and spoken poetic voices of residents;
- 20 b) increasing access to poetry throughout all parts of the community;
- 21 c) encouraging both the reading and writing of literature;
- 22 d) commemorating the City of St. Louis through works that speak to, for and of our
23 region; and
- 24 e) officiating special events upon request throughout the term.

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1 **SECTION TWO.** There shall be six (6) member Poet Laureate Task Force to administer
2 the selection of a qualified candidate. This Task Force shall:

- 3 a) create an open nomination process;
- 4 b) establish selection criteria for the evaluation of candidates; and after considerable
5 review,
- 6 c) recommend a candidate for Board of Aldermen approval.

7 **SECTION THREE.** The Poet Laureate Task Force shall be selected as follows:

- 8 a) Membership: The Poet Laureate Task Force shall be comprised of a
9 representative of the Mayor, a regional arts organization, a local institute of higher
10 education, a resident with interest in poetry, a member of the regional business
11 community and a representative of the President of the Board of Aldermen who
12 shall serve as chair. Members shall be appointed by the chair with the advice of
13 the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.
- 14 b) Term of Office: Each member of the Poet Laureate Task Force shall serve a three
15 (3) year term (except as provided herein with respect to the initial members), with
16 terms expiring as of June 31st of the designated year or when their successors are
17 appointed as provided herein, whichever is later.
- 18 c) Initial Members and Terms: The initial members shall be appointed for the terms
19 set forth as follows: the chair shall be appointed for a term expiring June 31,
20 2017; two (2) members shall be appointed for a term expiring June 31, 2015; and
21 two (3) members shall be appointed for a term expiring June 31, 2016.

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1 d) Removal: The Mayor or President of the Board of Aldermen, with approval of the
2 Board of Aldermen, may remove any member of the Poet Laureate Task Force for
3 misconduct or neglect of duty.

4 e) Mid-term Vacancies: Vacancies of the Poet Laureate Task Force or the Poet
5 Laureate, occasioned by removal, resignation, expiration of term, or otherwise,
6 shall be reported to the Mayor and the President of the Board of Aldermen by the
7 Poet Laureate Task Force. The vacancy shall be filled at the recommendation of
8 the chair no later than thirty (30) days after the date of said report. Appointments
9 to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired portion of a term only.

10 f) Compensation: The members of the Poet Laureate Task Force shall serve without
11 compensation of any kind.

12 **SECTION FOUR. Effective Date.** The Poet Laureate term shall commence on January
13 1, 2015.

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