

RESOLUTION NUMBER 45
CELEBRATING THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMETRIOS JOHNSON CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen pauses in their deliberations to recognize and congratulate The Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation on its 30th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Demetrious Johnson is a native St. Louisan who grew up in the Darst-Webbe Housing Project; He was the youngest of eight children and was raised by a single parent; and

WHEREAS, With the odds against him, Johnson was able to stay focused and graduated from McKinley High School and earned a full athletic scholarship to attend the University of Missouri- Columbia; during his years at Mizzou, Johnson was recognized as a premier defensive back, including Big 8 All Star; Johnson graduated with a bachelor's degree in Education with a major in Counseling Psychology; and upon graduation, the Detroit Lions drafted Johnson; Johnson's professional football career lasted five years; and

WHEREAS, Johnson says that his true calling in life actually began after his years in the NFL playing for the Detroit Lions and Miami Dolphins; his football years were preparation to teach him to whom much is given; much is expected; and

WHEREAS, the true foundation of giving back was instilled in him as a little boy while watching his mother Eddie Mae Binion-Johnson give of herself to their community on a daily basis; she always told him that if he was blessed in life with abundance, then he must come back and take care of his own community; after he made his mark in the NFL as a star player and team captain, he founded and became President of The Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation; and

WHEREAS, with his family and close friends by his side, they started out The Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation with Thanksgiving turkey baskets to feed 30 families and enough toys for 25 children on Christmas; Now thirty years later, the foundation provides more than 3,000 turkey baskets to deserving families in our community and has a Christmas Wish Party for over 1,200 kids; and

WHEREAS, aside from the holidays, he provides for the St. Louis community year-round; The Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation provides free summer camps, chess teams, skilled tutoring for all grade levels, mentoring and career programs and hosts the only free HBCU football camp, which is held at St. Louis University High School during Memorial Day Weekend; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation's motto is, "Helping today's youth towards a better tomorrow;" its mission is to help better the lives of inner-city youth by providing mentoring, financial, vocational, tutorial and scholastic assistance programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to thank Demetrious Johnson and the Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation for their 30 years of service to the St. Louis community. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 25th day of June, 2021 by:

The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

The Honorable Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Alderwoman 26th Ward

The Honorable Pam Boyd, Alderwoman 27th Ward

Adopted this 25th day of June, 2021 as attested by

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen