

RESOLUTION NUMBER 58
HONORING VALERIE CARTER - THOMAS

WHEREAS, Valerie Carter-Thomas, long time principal at Northwest Academy starting her teaching career with St. Louis Public Schools August of 1992 at Woerner Elementary School on the city's South Side as a Writing Lab Specialist for 4 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 she moved to Northwest Middle School on the City's North side as a Writing Lab Specialist under the leadership of Mr. Ronald Wayne. In the year 2000, she began her career in administration as the school's Instructional Facilitator; and

WHEREAS, after only four years, and without having Assistant Principal's experience, she was chosen as the leader of Northwest Middle School, which soon transitioned from a middle school into The Great Northwest High School; and

WHEREAS, as Principal of The Great, Valerie Carter Thomas received many awards and accolades and established the school as one of the premier schools of the St. Louis region. On October 15, 2010, she was honored as a winner of the 2010 Spirit of Justice Awards from The St. Louis Bar Foundation. On August 10, 2012, she was an honoree of the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation's Ladies Luncheon. On March 12, 2015, she was a key-note speaker at the Ethical Society of St. Louis for Women's Voices-Raised for Social Justice; and

WHEREAS, during the 2012-2016 school years, the U. S. Department of Justice sent International Ambassadors from around the world, including Africa, Asia, Palestine, and Israel, to The Great Northwest High School to discuss educational concerns and Human Rights for Gender and Ethical Groups. During the 2011-2012 school year U. S. News & World Report recognized Northwest Academy of Law as a recipient of their Bronze Medal School Award; and

WHEREAS, over her career she has proven to be a dynamic leader who was known for her diligent care of children, and additionally, she mobilized students to have a voice even when it may have been an obstacle for herself. During the uprising of Michael Brown, the students organized a protest and walked out of school and started marching down Riverview Dr. toward Riverview Circle. The students were walking in the middle of the street, stopping traffic during the school day. It was a nerve-wracking situation, and Ms. Carter-Thomas was looking for a way to get the students safely back to school; and

WHEREAS, after about an hour when the students reached Riverview Circle, Ms. Carter-Thomas began thinking of ways to get the students back to school. Thinking that the students were tired, hungry and ready to return, she addressed one of the leaders and told her that they had done enough and that they had done a good job of getting their message across. The student responded, "Did Dr. Martin Luther King stop when they reached Pettus Bridge? No! They kept going, and so will we, Ms. Carter-Thomas"; and

WHEREAS, she looked at the student and wanted to retaliate with a finger-point to the time-out room or an always worthy phrase of "You're suspended young lady," but suddenly realized that they were blocks from the principal's office; and

WHEREAS, she had an "ah-ha" moment of what the students were doing--it was what she was trying to embed in them all along. She wanted to teach students to have a voice and to stand up for their rights and constructively voice themselves when injustice appeared, even and especially when that struggle is uncomfortable.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED, by the Honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to congratulate the outstanding educator, Ms. Valerie Carter-Thomas, on a job well done and by adoption of this Resolution wish join any and all who are honoring her and her accomplishments. 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 honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

**Introduced this 9th day of July, 2021 by:
The Honorable Pamela Boyd, Alderwoman 19th Ward**

Adopted the 9th day of July, 2021, as attested by:

**Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen**

**Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen**