

**Resolution Number 23**  
**Austin Augustus Layne, Jr.**

**WHEREAS**, Austin Augustus Layne, Jr. is a meritorious visionary entrepreneur in our community. The addresses of his businesses are Austin A. Layne, Jr. Mortuary, Inc., Layne Renaissance Chapel and Austin A. Layne, Jr. Normandy Chapel; and

**WHEREAS**, after being honorably discharged from the United States Army, Austin did not “march” in a direction opposite of his hometown St. Louis but rather “marched” to his hometown to contribute to his community. He worked for the United States Government as a computer specialist; nevertheless, his employment at Wade Funeral Home, as Funeral Director and Embalmer influenced and prepared him to embrace destiny, to establish his own businesses in St. Louis County. The late Mr. Gilbert Wade Granberry was his mentor; and

**WHEREAS**, his declaration is to build relationships with the families he serves rather than simply interacting with them. To each and every family whom he serves, he communicates his supreme commitment to professionalism, kindness, compassion, and attention to detail. When families request his singing and playing the piano/organ at the funeral services, he accepts graciously; and

**WHEREAS**, the apex and zenith of African American businesses in St. Louis County, he has been an entrepreneur for 35 years. Because his businesses have been stable components in the community, he has for 35 years ensured continuous gainful professional employment for African American men and women, to support themselves, their families and the economy. He manages both the day-to-day operations and marketing of his mortuary chapels. He gives monetary donations freely to churches, the needy, and organizations in the community; and yet, he elects to remain anonymous; and

**WHEREAS**, daily he strives diligently to be a Christian. He is dedicated to his childhood church Temple Church of Christ, St. Louis, whereby his father was founder/pastor, and he is a member of the Trustee Board. He serves as national organist/pianist and regional coordinator for the 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. ; and

**WHEREAS**, he is active in numerous community and civic organizations including the Jennings Chamber of Commerce, the Missouri State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, the National Funeral Directors Association, and the St. Louis Gateway Funeral Directors Association. “A Quite Place” is the radio show he hosts on Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons; and

**WHEREAS**, he is a member of Phoenix #79 of the Masonic Lodge. Revered as “The Man With The Velvet Voice”, he is a celebrated national recording artist of sacred music, and his CD “I Opened My Mouth To The Lord” mirrors his musical gifts. He presents concerts wherein he sings and plays the piano, organ, and saxophone while his music augments the realization of the true meaning of the human spirit. During workshops/seminars he inspires and empowers his audiences; and

**WHEREAS**, he is the husband of Eneazer Layne, the father of Ingrid Selena Layne, and the grandfather of Austin Palmer Washington. A sibling of Mary Harrison, Anna Winbush, and Simeon A. Layne, Sr., he is an uncle, employer, and a friend. Bishop Austin A. and First Lady Selena A. Layne, Sr. were his parents; and

**WHEREAS**, he is a product of Carver Elementary School and Vashon High School. He attended Stowe Teachers College; however, he earned his Associate’s Degree in Applied Science from The School of Mortuary Science at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park. His additional studies were at Washington and Webster Universities; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize Austin Augustus Layne, Jr. and 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 copy for presentation to the honoree, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 2nd day of May, 2014 by:

**Honorable Chris Carter, Alderman 27th Ward**

Adopted this the 2nd day of May, 2014 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen