

RESOLUTION NUMBER 199
Jo Ann Vatcha

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Vatcha moved to St. Louis in 1957 and has lived in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood since 1965, marking 50 years this year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Vatcha has led the Delmar Commercial Committee since 1989, for 25 years, bringing residents and business owners together from both sides of Delmar to work together for the betterment of everyone; and

WHEREAS, she began working on The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere in 1974, served as editor and with her husband Neville held many backyard parties/fundraisers for the paper; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Vatcha Authored a history of Skinker- DeBaliviere for the neighborhood centennial in 2008, called “Celebrating Skinker-DeBaliviere: History and Comeback”; and

WHEREAS, she has given generously of her time and energy for the betterment of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Vatcha contributed to the redevelopment of many city neighborhoods over the course of 21years through her work at the Community Development Administration and Operation Impact. She served as the Executive Director of Neighborhood Housing Services; and

WHEREAS, she served as President of the Rosedale Neighborhood Association from 1977-1978 and was their representative to the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors;

WHEREAS, she served as President of the St. Roch School Association Group from 1976-77;

WHEREAS, Ms. Vatcha was a leader in the revitalization of Skinker DeBaliviere, believes in the importance of bringing people together, and values the neighborhood’s commitment to diversity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Saint Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the many contributions of Jo Ann Vatcha by awarding the Neighborhood Steward Award in conjunction with the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Martin Luther King Commemoration and show our appreciation for her many contributions to the City of Saint Louis 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 commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree’s family at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 16th day of January, 2015 by:

Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 16th day of January, 2015 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen