

## **RESOLUTION NUMBER 271**

### **Pearlena Marie Harris**

**WHEREAS**, we pause in our deliberations to note the passing of longtime Lewis Place resident and St. Louis activist Pearlena Marie Harris; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Harris was born August 30, 1947 in St. Louis to Bessie Lee Vernell and Arthur Lee Vernell. She attended St. Louis Public Schools, graduating from Vashon High School in 1965, after which she pursued further studies at St. Louis Community College. Along with her parents, her husband Walter Harris, an army paratrooper and machinist and sisters Ruth Annie McKinney and Lula Easter preceded her in death; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Harris retired from the City of St. Louis Buildings Division, after working as building inspector for 45 years. In 2001 and 2002 she was winner of the Building Division Raymond Daly Performance Excellence Award, and the Building Division Employee Of The Year Award for going above and beyond the call of duty in performance; and

**WHEREAS**, she was a noted community activist, well-known in 18<sup>th</sup> ward politics and served as President of the Lewis Place Association for two terms. In 1983, Mrs. Harris successfully sued the City of St. Louis in support of rights for sanitation workers. A St. Louis Post-Dispatch article: [Merger of Sanitation, Building Test Agencies, Worries Black Workers](#) details the specifics of this activity, occurring during Mayor Vincent Schoemehl's tenure. Mrs. Harris served on the Board of the Directors for the Community Land Trust for Vatterott Educational Centers. The Trust rehabbed 14 buildings on the Near North Side for low income families in 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, a philanthropist, she raised over \$20,000 for the Lewis Place Association and donated annually to Central Catholic School, St. Nicholas School and St. Elizabeth Academy, where she was a board member; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Harris is survived by a daughter Pamela McLucas, a St. Louis realtor and three grandchildren, Jenu, Acacia and Victoria Mclucas, and a sister, Marchelle Vettis.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to remember the many contributions Pearlena Marie Harris to the citizens of the City of St. Louis and we join with her many friends in expressing our sorrow at her passing, 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 memorial copy for presentation to the Harris family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 10th day of April, 2015 by:

**Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Adopted this the 10th day of April, 2015 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