

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 128
HONORING LEAH DANIELS-BUTLER**

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen pauses today to recognize and applaud the accomplishments and contributions of Leah Daniels-Butler; as a casting director and producer, she has been responsible for launching the careers of talented actors like Gaborey Sidebe, star of the Academy Award winning film “Precious; currently, Leah serves as Casting Director for television’s #1 show, “Empire”; and

WHEREAS, Leah Daniels-Butler began making a name for herself in the early ‘90’s working on TV & Film projects with legendary casting director and mentor Jaki Brown and Kimberly Hardin; under their leadership, she assisted in casting actor/recording star Tyrese Gibson in the ad that would launch his career; Leah’s work ethic and reputation “for getting the job done” quickly spread among black filmmakers and mainstream television space alike; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Leah landed a coveted casting position as the assistant to Leslie Litt, Senior VP at Warner Brothers; within two years, Leah was working on award-winning projects like “Friends” and “Suddenly Susan”, both shows earning Emmy awards for acting roles; before leaving Warner Brothers, she also cast “The Wayans Brothers” and “For Your Love”, which received six NAACP Image Award nominations; and

WHEREAS, among her many accolades, Leah Daniels-Butler is the recipient of the Hamilton Award for Outstanding Casting for her work on “The Butler” and the Outstanding Achievement in Casting for a Television Drama award for her work on “Empire”; The Casting Society of America appointed Leah Daniels-Butler to its board of directors, where she serves as the only African- American member of the board; and

WHEREAS, when she is not busy shaping the many fictional characters international audiences have come to know and love, Leah dedicates her time helping shape the futures of real women in her community who are in need of second chances. Leah sits on the board of the A New Way to Life ReEntry Project, an organization that provides housing and support to formerly incarcerated women; and

WHEREAS, Leah Daniels- Butler is married to executive and producer Harry Butler Jr., and the couple both agree that their greatest accomplishments to date is their 27 years of marriage and raising 5 amazing children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize Leah Daniels-Butler and to thank her for the many contributions she has made to the film industry and to acknowledge her talent in developing characters have touched millions of people throughout the world. 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 to the end that it may be presented to the honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 12th day of November, 2021 by:
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 12th day of November, 2021as attested by

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen