

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 18
HONORING ORLANDO WATSON**

WHEREAS, the members of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Orlando Watson; and

WHEREAS, Orlando Watson was born May 24, 1973 to the union of Landers and Rosalyn Watson; and

WHEREAS, Orlando was a proud alum of University City High School and resided in University City for most of his life; and

WHEREAS, Orlando was a talented music producer and by the time he graduated high school he had already started making marketable music tracks and beats. After high school, he moved to Atlanta for a period of time to continue making music; and

WHEREAS, a few of Orlando Watson's accolades in the music industry include an American Music Award, multiple Platinum Plaques for production, and five Top 40 Billboard singles. His later music industry interests and endeavors included promotion and production of hundreds of concerts in the St. Louis area through his partnership in Rockhouse Entertainment; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Watson was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer in his knee. After receiving treatment and going five years cancer free, he founded the I'm A Survivor Cancer Foundation to raise awareness and funding for cancer treatment. The organization held annual events for cancer awareness; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Watson and long-time friend Tony Davis opened Prime 55 restaurant. Prime 55 was an immediate success and became the go to place of entertainers and athletes that visited St. Louis, as well as residents looking for a place to; and

WHEREAS, Watson was also involved in many anti-violence and anti-police brutality projects; and

WHEREAS, even after his cancer resurfaced, Orlando remained an inspiration and a support system to many who were encouraged by his ability to push through and continue to strive for success and excellence, and for the mark he continued to make on the St. Louis area; and

WHEREAS, Orlando Watson was well known for his commitment to his community, his knowledge of the music and entertainment industry, and his willingness to inspire and celebrate the success of others. Reflective of the name of his cancer foundation, Orlando's impact and the memory of him will survive for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Orlando Watson is survived by his wife of over 20 years, Michelle Watson, children; Paris, Zaeya, Orlando, and Caleb, his father Landers Watson.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to add our names to the rolls of people honoring and celebrating the life of Orlando Watson. We further direct the Clerk of this Board of Aldermen to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy of this resolution to the end that it may be presented to the Watson family at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced this 6th day of May, 2022 by:

The Honorable Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Alderwoman 26th Ward

The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 6th day of May, 2022 as attested by:

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen