

RESOLUTION 5
ERIC VICKERS

WHEREAS, we pause today to note the passing of our dear friend and civil rights activist Eric Vickers who passed away Friday, April 13, at the age of 65, after a hard fought battle with pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS, Eric was the second- born of Claire Lee and Robert Vickers' four children; he arrived on February 16, 1953 at People's Hospital, an all-black hospital in St. Louis; his mother worked for the federal government and his father was the superintendent of schools in Venice, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Vickers family moved from East St. Louis to University City where Eric attended high school; he participated in a student-led, sit-down to protest the lack of black teachers and staff and was ready to start on his activism full-time after graduating in 1970, but his parents insisted that he go on to college; and

WHEREAS, Eric Vickers attended St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, then Washington University; he graduated in 1975 with a political science degree before heading to California where he earned his Master's Degree from Occidental College; after a year-long internship in the CORO Foundation Fellows program in St. Louis, Eric went to law school where he graduated in 1981 from the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to St. Louis, Eric Vickers joined Bryan Cave, one of the City's largest and most prestigious law firms; and in 1983, he and two others established their own firm, Vickers, Moore, & Wiest. Eric took on difficult criminal and civil rights cases and was soon working on behalf of minority contractors: his mantra was "litigating, agitating, and negotiating;" and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, his Muslim faith and activism remained at his core and sustained him; Eric served as Executive Director of the American Muslim Council and on the Board of the American Muslim Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Eric also leaves a more extensive written legacy, a book titled And Men Don't Talk, a collection of short stories and poems about his upbringing among men who were, "About action, rather than talk;"; he will be missed dearly by his son, Aaron Vickers of St. Louis, his daughter, Erica Cage of Shiloh, Illinois, his father, Robert Vickers of University City, his sister Vicki, his brother Steven, and his three grandchildren.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize and celebrate the life of Eric Vickers and acknowledge his accomplishments and contributions to minorities in the City of St. Louis and beyond. 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 family of Eric Vickers at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 27th day of April, 2018, by:

The Honorable Brandon Bosley, Alderman 3rd Ward

The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

The Honorable Tammika Hubbard, Alderwoman 5th Ward

The Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward
The Honorable John J. Coatar, Alderman 7th Ward
The Honorable Annie Rice Alderwoman 8th Ward
The Honorable Dan Guenther, Alderman 9th Ward
The Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward
The Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward
The Honorable Beth Murphy, Alderwoman 13th Ward
The Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward
The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
The Honorable John Collins-Muhammad, Alderman 21st Ward
The Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
The Honorable Joe Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
The Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward
The Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
The Honorable Pam Boyd, Alderwoman 27th Ward

Adopted the 27th day of April, 2018, as attested by:

Louis C. Galli
Legal Counsel, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen