

**RESOLUTION NO. 19**

**Brian Owens**

**WHEREAS**, we pause in our deliberations to honor the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Artist in Residence Brian Owens; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Owens, who formerly served his country in the U.S. Army, will headline the May 21 *Soul of Cash* concert with the St. Louis Symphony at Powell Hall; during the concert, Mr. Owens will shine a spotlight on a powerful St. Louis Symphony diversity initiative that he helped design last season – Peer to Peer Mentoring, a program that pairs young African-American string instrument students with teaching mentors from the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra; and

**WHEREAS**, the program was piloted with one mentee and one mentor last season, and now have two young violinists, a violist and the returning cellist from the pilot program in Peer to Peer Mentoring this season; mentees and mentors work closely together throughout the season, and will join Mr. Owens and musicians from the St. Louis Symphony on stage to perform one of the pieces on the concert; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Owens, who formerly served as a Staff Sergeant in Afghanistan, gained worldwide attention as lead singer with the military band Sidewinder; the band became an internet sensation, which led to national appearances on Entertainment Tonight, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, the opening game of the 2011 World Series, and at the White House; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Owens's *Soul of Cash*, a tribute to the music of legendary country artist Johnny Cash, tours have been successful across the country since 2014 (outside of his work with the St. Louis Symphony); the St. Louis Symphony is thrilled that he will perform this concert with the backing of his hometown orchestra; this will be the first ticketed concert that Mr. Owens will headline with the St. Louis Symphony.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to honor and recognize the dedication of Brian Owens. 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 at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 19th day of May, 2017, by:

**The Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward**  
**The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen**

Adopted this 19th day of May, 2017, as attested by:

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Donna Booker  
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen