

**RESOLUTION NO. 66**

**Tonja Sesley-Baymon**

**WHEREAS**, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. has selected 14 distinguished women to be honored at the *Salute to Women in Leadership Gala* celebrated on Friday, June 17, 2016, and held at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel in downtown St. Louis, Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc., under the leadership of its President and CEO, Michael McMillan, strives to enhance the lives of individuals within the entire Metropolitan area of St. Louis and St. Clair and Madison Counties in Illinois by focusing on self empowerment through 26 programs fostering education, economic and social services, neighborhood stabilization, and the recognition of outstanding women who have gone beyond the call of duty in service to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Tonja Sesley-Baymon is the recipient of the Salute to Women in Leadership Urban League CEO of the Year Award for her tireless work in her community; and

**WHEREAS**, Tonja Sesley-Baymon is the President & CEO of the Memphis Urban League, Inc.; she is a native Memphian and an avid community servant; she has served the Urban League in various capacities for 11 years; her work in the furtherance of equality centers on the League's mission of providing direct services and policy advocacy to help individuals and communities reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, she has been recognized by the National Urban League as an Emerging Leader and an I Am Empowered Award recipient, she advocates for closing equality gaps for people at all economic levels and stages of life; and

**WHEREAS**, aside from her professional career, Sesley-Baymon serves her community through ministry and holds several leadership positions at Morning Star Church World Wide Ministries where her father is Pastor; and

**WHEREAS**, our nation owes its greatness to the tireless efforts and lofty standards of leading women such as Tonja Sesley-Baymon, recipient of the Salute to Women in Leadership Urban League CEO of the Year Award for her career achievements, who has demonstrated a dedicated, altruistic commitment to her fellow citizens.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Tonja Sesley-Baymon as a Salute to Women in Leadership Urban League CEO of the Year Award Honoree, and we wish our honoree continued success, achievement, and accomplishment. 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 on the 17th day of June, 2016, by:

**The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward**

Adopted this the 17th day of June, 2016, as attested by:

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Timothy O'Connell  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen