

RESOLUTION NO. 73
The Contributions and Career of
Elaine Harris Spearman

WHEREAS, Elaine Harris Spearman, Esq. began her career with the City of St. Louis in 1972, when she was hired as an Administrative Assistant in the Department of Health and Hospitals while finishing a law degree at St. Louis University; and

WHEREAS, after a short term in the City Counselor's Office, Ms. Spearman was appointed by St. Louis' first African American Mayor, Freeman Bosley, Jr., to Director of Human Services in 1993; in this role, Spearman instituted a new youth self-esteem program which hired and empowered youth from low-income neighborhoods and successfully doubled the annual budget for her Department during her four-year tenure, gaining national attention for spearheading innovative programs, including the "Nuisance Property Prevention" program which received a second place award from the National League of Cities; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 and for the 19 years that followed, Ms. Spearman worked as the Legal Advisor and Chief of Staff to the Comptroller of the City of St. Louis, providing guidance on all legal and budgetary matters impacting the citizens of our fair city, reviewing sensitive contracts, overseeing major projects and all internal personnel matters; serving as the Chairperson for the City of St. Louis 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, wherein the City of St. Louis became the first city in America to receive the "USCM Leadership Award" from the U.S. Conference of Mayors for implementing positive changes that help its employees achieve retirement readiness and financial literacy; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spearman earned a reputation for bringing dignity and compassion to every role she assumed both inside City Hall and in the community, where her impact has been arguably the greatest, where Ms. Spearman chaired the Mound City Bar Association's Scholarship Awards Dinner for 17 years and served as its President from 1997-1998; she served as the first President of the St. Louis Philanthropic Organization, Inc., where she empowered and commended women committed to excellence; she was elected as a Board Member at Large on the national board of the National Bar Association; she has chaired the Legal Legends Awards Luncheon with the St Louis Argus Newspaper, and two NAACP Freedom Fund Dinners, an organization she served on the board of; she served as President of Continental Societies, Inc.; a Commissioner on the Missouri Commission on Human Rights; an appointee to the Human Development Corporation's Board of Directors; she was a participant in Leadership St. Louis; she was a member of the Board of Directors of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri; she was a member of the Igbo Women's Association of St. Louis; and she was a member of the Board of Trustees of Washington Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, where she has long worshiped; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career in public service—with the State of Missouri, Land of Lincoln Legal Services, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office, and finally, the City of St. Louis, Ms. Spearman has been recognized for going above the call of duty, for leading with distinction, for breaking down barriers for women, especially women of color, and building opportunity in communities where opportunities are lacking; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis joins the Missouri Bar, the National Bar Association, the Coalition of 100 Black Women, TOP Ladies of Distinction, Inc., the Central-Carver Foundation, the St. Louis Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violence Support Group,

the St. Louis NAACP; and others in recognizing Ms. Elaine Harris Spearman on a life of service with honor; and

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the tremendous contributions of Ms. Elaine Harris Spearman, a trusted advisor in City Hall for nearly three decades. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to include a copy of this Resolution in the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy for presentation at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 21st day of June, 2016, by:

The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President, St. Louis Board of Aldermen
The Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
The Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward
The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
The Honorable Stephen Conway, Alderman 8th Ward
The Honorable Thomas Villa, Alderman 11th Ward
The Honorable Beth Murphy, Alderwoman 13th Ward
The Honorable Carol Howard, Alderwoman 14th Ward
The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
The Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
The Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
The Honorable Chris Carter, Alderman 27th Ward
The Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 21st day of June, 2016, as attested by:

Timothy O'Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen