

## ***RESOLUTION NUMBER 81***

### ***Cizerine Ford***

***WHEREAS***, we have been appraised that Cizerine Anthony-Ford is celebrating her 75th birthday; and

***WHEREAS***, Cizerine Anthony-Ford, otherwise known as Renie, was born to Velpo and Annie Lee Anthony in Osceola, Arkansas 75 years ago today, July 25, 1940. The family moved to St. Louis, Mo when she was 2 years old; and

***WHEREAS***, She is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of four other sisters; Shirley Jean, Renie, Betty Jean, Billie Jean, and Terri also collectively known as “Ann’s Girls” born in St. Louis and raised in Carr Square Village; and

***WHEREAS***, *Renie’s* happy high school days were spent at Vashon High School, which has relocated to other areas of the city but is one of the oldest and first African American High Schools west of the Mississippi River; and

***WHEREAS***, *Renie’s* children are Bennice, Bennie, Brian and Kimberly who also attended Vashon and O’Fallon Technical High School; and

***WHEREAS***, *Renie’s* has always shown immense love and generosity not just to her family but to the greater St. Louis City through her career choices and civic involvements. She worked as an auditor for Tennant Management Corporation helping low income families qualify to own their own homes even welcoming displaced families into her home until they could get on their feet. She worked hand-in-hand with her sister, the late Billie Boykins to lead a successful grass roots effort to elect Billie the Missouri State Representative 82<sup>nd</sup> District seat and later to the city wide office victory where she served as the first African American female, St. Louis License Collector; and

***WHEREAS***, *Renie* was hands on in voter registration for her community so that they could improve their lives by being involved with local leadership. Her next career move was Director of North Newstead Association, helping to improve housing and living conditions for fellow residents in North St. Louis while working with her daughter Alderwoman Bennie Jones King, the 1<sup>st</sup> African American female for the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward for 16 years. Later, she assisted in the election of her niece Amber Boykins to State Representative of the 60<sup>th</sup> District. Bill and Amber Boykins were the 1<sup>st</sup> African American mother and daughter to be elected to state wide positions; and

***WHEREAS***, *Renie* has lifelong friends helping to celebrate and honor her from kindergarten, at Patrick Henry School, to church, at Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church to Hope Church where she currently attends; and

***WHEREAS***, Her prosperous life, which she shares with her husband Kermit Oliver Ford, includes 14 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Her grand-daughter BreAnn Jones-Johnson is currently with child and married a year ago today on July 25, 2014 to Russell Johnson; and

***WHEREAS***, *Renie* has had opportunities to travel to Canada, Mexico and Japan; always sharing of herself with those cultures and returning to share with St. Louis her experiences of mutual respect through self-respect of who you are and where you come from; and

**WHEREAS**, Her legacy of love has blessed her to bless her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren with the importance of education, empowerment of independence, strength and being ever mindful to forgive and love your brother as yourself.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to wish Cizerine Anthony-Ford, (**Renie**) a very happy 75th Birthday and 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 for presentation to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 25th day of July, 2015 by:

**Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward**

Adopted this 25th day of July, 2015 as attested by

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen