

**RESOLUTION No. 86**  
**Percy Green II**

**WHEREAS**, Percy Green II is a lifelong resident of St. Louis, was born in the Compton Hill Neighborhood of St. Louis, and educated in St. Louis at Toussaint L'Ouverture Elementary School, Vashon High School, and Washington University, from which he holds an M.S.W.; and

**WHEREAS**, Percy Green II is married to well-known activist and journalist Jamala Rogers, who is originally from Kansas City and has a son Percy Green III, from his first marriage; and

**WHEREAS**, Percy Green II is best known in St. Louis and throughout the United States of America as a black activist who has championed Civil Rights and who has inspired countless activists, laborers, professionals, and executives alike to embrace and fight for Civil Rights for all African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Green was active in the St. Louis chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), was a founding member of ACTION (Action Committee to Improve Opportunities for Negroes) and Green is a member of the Peace Economy Project's Board; and

**WHEREAS**, The fight for equal access to employment opportunities for African Americans characterized much of Green's work with both CORE and ACTION. His activism targeted many well-known St. Louis companies including Wonder Bread, Southwestern Bell, Laclede Gas and Union Electric (now Ameren UE); and

**WHEREAS**, Green has fought for equality and Black inclusion in the St. Louis region for nearly half a century and has been involved in several landmark actions related to Civil Rights in St. Louis including the construction of the St. Louis Gateway Arch; and

**WHEREAS**, On July 14, 1964, Green and Richard Daly, a white college student, scaled the Gateway Arch to protest the exclusion of Blacks from federal contracts and jobs related to the construction of the Arch. Green, Daly, and protesters on the ground demanded that MacDonald Construction Company, the contractor responsible for constructing the Arch, raise the number of African Americans employed on the project to 10% within 10 days; and

**WHEREAS**, Activism on behalf of Civil Rights are often met with harsh consequences from those who seek to keep the status quo and Green suffered such consequences as he was charged with charged with trespassing and other offenses for the protest at the Arch and less than two months after climbing the Arch, Green was laid off by McDonnell Douglas Corporation, where he was employed as a mechanic and laboratory technician. The case was ultimately decided in Green's favor by the Supreme Court, in a landmark decision that clarified discrimination law by establishing the McDonnell Douglas burden-shifting framework; and

**WHEREAS**, June 14, 2018 marks the 54th anniversary of Green's and Daly's climb up the Gateway Arch to protest the exclusion of Blacks from federal jobs related to the construction of the Arch and as Green is a part of the history of the Arch, today a photo of Percy Green hangs inside the Arch in a display commemorating his place in the Arch's history and The Black Elected Officials and the Activist Community are co-hosting an Educational Symposium and Ceremony in the Tucker Theater in the Arch at the Gateway National Park honoring Percy Green II, A part of the Living History of the Arch.; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis wishes to acknowledge the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Percy Green II and Richard Daly's scaling the Gateway Arch, and the historical significance and impact their protest along with the protestors on the ground had in changing and improving Blacks opportunity to work on federal construction jobs such as the Arch.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Members of this Honorable Board of Aldermen join the sponsor of this resolution in expressing their deepest appreciation to Percy Green II on the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his historic climb and protest at the Gateway Arch and instruct the Clerk of this Honorable Board of Aldermen to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution to present to Percy Green II at the appropriate time and place.

Introduced this 13th day of July, 2018 by:

**The Honorable Sharon Tyus, 1st Ward**  
**The Honorable Brandon Bosley, 3rd Ward**  
**The Honorable Samuel Moore, 4th Ward**  
**The Honorable Larry Arnowitz, 12th Ward**  
**The Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, 22nd Ward**  
**The Honorable Dan Guenther, 9th Ward**  
**The Honorable John Collins Muhammad, 21st Ward**  
**The Honorable Terry Kennedy, 18<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Pamela Boyd, 27th Ward**  
**The Honorable Lewis Reed, President, Board of Aldermen**

Adopted this 13th day of July, 2018 as attested by:

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Louis C. Galli  
Legal Counsel / Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen