

Resolution 104
Firefighter Vincent Smith

WHEREAS, we pause today in our deliberations to express our sense of appreciation and congratulations to Firefighter Vincent Smith for the unselfish act of heroism and decency he displayed on December 20th, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Firehouse Magazine was founded in 1976 and for nearly 40 years the magazine has served as a journal of record for the fire service; and

WHEREAS, Firehouse Magazine is a monthly publication with a readership just shy of one million, many coming from within the fire service; each year thousands are nominated for National Awards for Heroism, Firehouse ranks the winners—the STLFD is proud to have eight members recognized; and

WHEREAS, on December 20th, 2014, Firefighters Carter, McKinney, and Smith were each headed to work when they came across a single -vehicle accident with three passengers trapped and the engine compartment in flames. Carter and Smith got the assistance of several bystanders to call 9-1-1 and look for bricks or tire irons to break windows, as the doors were either locked or too damaged to open. Once able to access the vehicle through the backseat, Carter removed an unconscious male victim from the backseat and placed him on the street. Carter and Smith entered the backseat to start extricating a female passenger who was unconscious; and

WHEREAS, when a bystander was able to break the driver's side window, McKinney was able to pull the male driver out of the vehicle. He was unconscious and his clothes were on fire. McKinney patted out the fire with her hands and clothing left from the patient, who had a pulse and agonal respirations, with a bystander who was a nurse. The female passenger's leg was trapped in the floorboard area, and when the flames intensified this area, she awoke and was able to free her ankle. Carter and Smith then pulled her out of the vehicle. Her hair and clothes were on fire; and Smith patted the fire out with his hands as Carter and McKinney pulled her to safety; and

WHEREAS, additional units soon arrived on scene and were able to extinguish the fire and render medical care to the victims; while the victims were severely injured, their lives were saved by the courageous actions of Carter, McKinney, and Smith; and

WHEREAS, on the anniversary of September 11th, when many firefighters and first responders gave their lives in New York City, we take a moment to express our gratitude to Vincent Smith for his quick thinking and courage in the face of life threatening danger and his dedication to the safety of the residents of St. Louis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and applaud Firefighter Vincent Smith for his unselfish act of heroism. 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 presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 11th day of September, 2015 by:

Alderman Carol Howard, Ward 14
Lewis E. Reed, President

Adopted this the 11th day of September, 2015 as attested by:

Donna Evans-Booker
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen