

RESOLUTION NUMBER 177
L'Ouverture School

WHEREAS, we pause today in our deliberations to express our sense of appreciation and thanks to St. Louis Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams, Special School Board Administrator Richard Gaines, and teacher Kelvin Carter for their time, effort, and hard work to assist committed members of the community and alumni to keep L'Ouverture School open; and

WHEREAS, prior to 2013, the St. Louis Public School system faced many challenges that led to the closing of some neighborhood schools; a Special Administrative Board was appointed and eventually a new superintendent was hired, leading up to the events that saved L'Ouverture School from closing; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, after L'Ouverture School was slated to close in May, a conversation between Valerie Miller and alumnus Percy Green led to the formation of the Committee to Reopen L'Ouverture School, with a concerted effort to improve the educational opportunities for youth in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Committee to Reopen L'Ouverture identified committed alumni, neighborhood residents, and community leaders who were invited to meet on Tuesday evenings in an attempt to come together and save the school; many of the members of this committee were senior citizens with a wealth of experience in organizing for action to benefit their community and were committed to carrying out their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Tuesday night meetings, lead by Ollie Stewart, went on for two and a half years; ideas were exchanged, fundraising began, and a proposal was submitted for consideration to Richard Gaines and Dr. Kelvin Adams; and

WHEREAS, realizing the changing needs of the community, a plan was put forth to reestablish L'Ouverture as an "entrepreneurial" school, where students would learn various skills and trades leading to greater employment opportunities, including how to establish and operate a business; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the guidance and support of Richard Gaines, Dr. Kelvin Adams, Mr. Kelvin Carter, and all those who came to weekly meetings, made countless phone calls, sent e-mails, and had petitions signed--this dream was becoming a reality; and

WHEREAS, after just under three years, we would like to thank everyone involved, not only for working to reopen the school but also for demonstrating the importance of collaboration and collective action to improving community education in neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, it is with sincere joy that we can announce the Academy of Environmental Science and Math at L'Ouverture was opened for the 2015/2016 school year under the

guidance of Principal CeAndre Perry, and the students and community are anticipating a bright future full of hope and new opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to acknowledge and thank Richard Gaines, Dr. Kelvin Adams, and Kelvin Carter, along with everyone who contributed to this effort, for their sincere commitment to our youth, our schools, and our St. Louis community. 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 memorial copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 15th day of January, 2016 by:

Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderman Ward 19
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 15th day of January, 2016 as attested by

Timothy O'Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen