

RESOLUTION NUMBER 204

Frankie Muse Freeman

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that On November 21, 2017, the St. Louis City Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People dedicated a bronze statue located at the intersection of Broadway and Chestnut in honor of Frankie Muse Freeman for her lifetime commitment to civil and human rights; and

WHEREAS, Frankie Muse Freeman, of Counsel to the St. Louis law firm of Montgomery Hollie & Associates, L.L.C., has been a practicing attorney in State and Federal Courts in Missouri for 60 years. She served as an Assistant Attorney General of Missouri from 1955 to 1956. She was staff attorney for the St. Louis Land Clearance and Housing Authorities from 1956 until 1970, first as Associate General Counsel and later as General Counsel of the St. Louis Housing Authority. In March, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated her as the first woman to serve as Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She served as a Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Civil rights for sixteen (16) years, from March, 1964 until July, 1980 and as Inspector General of the Community Services Administration during the Carter Administration; and

WHEREAS, volunteer community service has been an important part of Frankie Muse Freeman's life. She is past Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Council on the Aging, Inc., a former member of the Boards of the United Way of Greater St. Louis, Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, Ranken Technical College, and the World Affairs Council of St. Louis. She is a board member of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, the St. Louis City Branch N.A.A.C.P., the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District, and past President of the Gateway Chapter of Links, Inc. She is Vice-Chair of the Trustee Board of Washington Tabernacle Baptist Church. In June, 1992, she was elected Trustee Emeritus of Howard University Board of Trustees following 16 years as a member of the Board from 1976 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, Frankie Muse Freeman is a past National President of Delta Sigma Theta, a public service sorority. She has received many community service awards for outstanding achievement. She is the recipient of Honorary Degrees from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Harris-Stowe State University, Washington University, Hampton University, Saint Louis University, Aquinas Institute of Theology, Eden Theological Seminary and Howard University; and

WHEREAS, in June 1971, Mrs. Freeman was one of two U.S.A. representatives to the Un-ECA West African Housing Conference in Lomé', Togo. Thereafter, in June-July, she visited seven African countries where the Agency for International Development had completed or was considering Housing Guaranty Projects; and

WHEREAS, a native of Danville, Virginia, Mrs. Freeman attended Hampton University and received a J.D. degree from Howard University School of Law. She is a member of the National Bar Association, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, and the Mound City Bar Association. She was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame in 1990, and in February, 2007, she was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta, Georgia. Her memoir, *A Song of Faith and Hope: the Life of Frankie Muse Freeman*, was published in 2003; and

WHEREAS, since that momentous day in 1964, Frankie Muse Freeman remained active in civic affairs until her passing at 101 years old.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the passing of Civil Rights Activist Frankie Muse Freeman 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 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 19th day of January, 2018 by:

The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Adopted this 19th day of January, 2018 as attested by

Donna Elliot
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen