

## RESOLUTION NUMBER 208

### Peter Sortino

**WHEREAS**, Peter G. Sortino has been named the 2016 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Citizen of the Year for his countless achievements and the indelible difference he has made in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sortino arrived in St. Louis via Cincinnati via Yonkers with his wife and partner, Leslie, in 1974, and began to make an immediate contribution as a pioneer in the rebirth of the Soulard neighborhood, serving as President of the Soulard Restoration Group; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sortino was hired as a Special Assistant to Mayor Vince Schoemehl in 1987 and served both Mayor Schoemehl and Mayor Freeman Bosley, Jr. with high distinction, working with the Board of Aldermen, the State Legislature, and the Federal Government on major projects to enhance the St. Louis region; and

**WHEREAS**, said list of accomplishments for the City and region are too lengthy to enumerate but include the creation of St. Louis' light rail system; the building of Scottrade Center; the expansion and reconfiguration of the America's Center Convention Complex; and the approval of the Forest Park master plan; and

**WHEREAS**, upon leaving City Government to join St. Louis 2004 and then the Danforth Foundation, Mr. Sortino continued to lead major improvements for the region, including the redevelopment of the Old Post Office; the redesign and upgrades along Washington Avenue in Downtown St. Louis; the plan to renovate the Arch grounds that led to the formation of CityArchRiver; and the passage of bond issues and funding efforts for major upgrades and long-term stability of Forest Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sortino led efforts to secure sustainable funding for the nation's greatest system of connected parks and trails, with five counties in both Missouri and Illinois simultaneously approving a tax in 2013 under Mr. Sortino's guidance, the only time in St. Louis history such an effort has been conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sortino has been enshrined in the Missouri Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame for his contribution to parks and trails in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sortino led the creation of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission and has served as its only Chair since 2001, and the Commission has secured more than \$500 million in otherwise unavailable funding for improving health care services for the uninsured in St. Louis and has become national model for regional collaboration for improving the health of a community; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2011, Mr. Sortino has made significant contributions to the growth of Washington University in his role as Assistant Vice-Chancellor; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sortino has been a faithful parishioner at St. Ambrose Church, regularly attending 6:30 a.m. Mass; has been an integral part of the community known as "the Hill"; and has been recognized as St. Louis' Italian-American Citizen of the Year; and

**WHEREAS**, in all his accomplishments. Mr. Sortino is renowned for his integrity, his humility, his humor, and his grace under pressure.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Mr. Sortino for all of his accomplishments, his integrity, his humility, his humor, and his grace under pressure, and most importantly for his contributions to the City of St. Louis. 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 be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 13th day of January, 2017, by:

**The Honorable Jack Coatar, Alderman 7th Ward**

Adopted this 13th day of January, 2017, as attested by

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Timothy G. O'Connell  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen