

RESOLUTION NUMBER 223CS

WHEREAS, the Red, Black and Green, was first established August 13, 1920 by the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), then centered in Harlem, New York during the Harlem Renaissance as a way to denote and highlight Africa and her people; and

WHEREAS, the flag is tri-color consisting of three equal portions from top to bottom. The red represents the blood that unites all people of Black African ancestry. The Black represents black people whose existence as a nation, though not a nation-state and the green represents the abundant natural wealth of Africa; and

WHEREAS, UNIA was the largest African - American based self-help and self-reliance organization of its time in the western hemisphere with chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Central and South America later establishing chapters throughout Africa, and

WHEREAS, the Red, Black and Green, as it was officially called by UNIA, over the years, came to represent freedom and liberation and grew in great popularity during the movement for equality, cultural expression and self-determination, economic opportunity, and the ending of discrimination during the justice movement of the 1960s and 70s, and

WHEREAS, some combination of the basic colors of this flag have been incorporated into the national flags of nearly every newly independent African and Caribbean nation after they fought and won their freedom from colonial rule, and

WHEREAS, The Republic of South Africa was the most recent African Nation freed from racial discrimination brought on by colonialism to incorporate these colors into their new united flag of a free South Africa, and

WHEREAS, the Red, Black and Green has also become one of the symbols of African-American History Month representing the rich culture, contributions, achievements and struggles the African-American experience, and

WHEREAS, the Red, Black and Green is used, displayed and flown in various public places throughout the United States during African-American History Month including public schools, government offices, churches, business and organizations as a way to both represent and celebrate the rich history and contributions African- Americans have made to the world and the American experience.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we direct the City to prominently display the Red, Black and Green at, in and outside of City Hall each year during the month of February (African-American History Month) to recognize and celebrate the many contributions that Black Americans have made and are still making to make America the great country that it is today.

Introduced on the 7th day of February, 2014 by:
Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward
Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward
Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Chris Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Adopted this the 7th day of February, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen