

RESOLUTION NUMBER 165
30th Anniversary of Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that on October 9, 2009, Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School will celebrate its 30th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, established in 1979, Cardinal Ritter College Prep is a co-educational high school committed to providing an exemplary education to St. Louis' urban youth by instilling attitudes of success and self-worth through faith development, academic excellence and leadership training; and

WHEREAS, originally, Cardinal Ritter Prep was located in the Walnut Park neighborhood of North St. Louis. This school attracted students from all over the St. Louis area and quickly outgrew the facility. Cardinal Ritter Prep remained in this new location until a group of community and business leaders formed to raise money for new property and to build a new state-of-the-art school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. David Kemper, chairman and chief executive officer of Commerce Bank, and Mr. David Farrell, former chief executive of the May Company, co-chaired a very successful capital campaign that began in 1999. Cardinal Ritter Prep raised \$22 million from the corporate and civic communities of St. Louis and \$8 million from the St. Louis Archdiocese; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2003, the current Archbishop, Cardinal Justin Rigali, dedicated the new Cardinal Ritter Preparatory High School at 701 N. Spring Avenue in St. Louis. The school opened its doors for students in August 2003; and

WHEREAS, for the past 30 years, nearly every Cardinal Ritter College Prep senior has gone on to college after graduation. All 94 members of the Class of 2009 were accepted to at least one college or university. Among them, these students garnered more than \$4 million in scholarship offers, not including two Gates Millennium Scholars; and

WHEREAS, their student body is entirely African-American young women and men who come from low-to-middle-income homes. Cardinal Ritter College Prep offers families an educational alternative, while maintaining the lowest tuition rate among private high schools in the St. Louis area; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of Cardinal Ritter Prep is to help students develop fully as people: intellectually, spiritually and morally. With an emphasis on leadership and personal development, their graduates are prepared to be productive, contributing members of the community; and

WHEREAS, their name honors the memory of Cardinal Joseph Ritter, who was Bishop of the St. Louis Archdiocese from 1946 to 1967. Soon after arriving in St. Louis he integrated all of the St. Louis Catholic schools in 1947, seven years before *Brown vs. The Board of Education*.

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 30th Anniversary of Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School 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 commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 9th day of October, 2009 by:

Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward
Honorable April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Adopted this the 9th day of October, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

