

ORDINANCE 70971

BOARD BILL NO. 14CS INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN MARLENE DAVIS

1 Pursuant to Ordinance 68937, an ordinance authorizing the honorary street name
2 Fr. Biondi S.J. Way, which shall begin at the intersection of Lindell Boulevard and Grand
3 Boulevard and run south on Grand Boulevard to the intersection of Grand Boulevard and
4 Highway 44.

5 **WHEREAS**, Fr. Lawrence Biondi, S.J. became President of Saint Louis University
6 in 1987, and served the University in this capacity until 2013, making him the University's
7 longest serving President; and

8 **WHEREAS**, under Fr. Biondi's leadership Saint Louis University underwent
9 significant academic, physical and financial transformations earning national regard as an
10 institution of higher-education and research and as one of the nation's premier Catholic
11 universities; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Fr. Biondi oversaw the successful completion of three major
13 fundraising campaigns, which together total more than \$600 million, and as President
14 Emeritus he continues to play a major role in the University's fundraising efforts in the
15 U.S. and internationally, and in the University's international student recruitment efforts;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, Fr. Biondi placed new and greater emphasis on the Jesuit mission of
18 service to the community (teaching men and women to be of service to others by advancing
19 education, alleviating poverty and injustice, and caring for those in need) and the result of
20 this effort is observable: one example being; the 2010 opening of Casa de Salud a not for

1 profit health center on the University's campus, which filled the void in access to healthcare
2 for the region's immigrant community and uninsured; and

3 **WHEREAS**, during his twenty-six-years as president the University's endowment
4 rose from \$93 million to \$1.2 billion; freshman enrollment rose from 660 to 1,618 while
5 the student-to teacher-ratio fell in relation to a 180% increase in faculty members; the
6 University's St. Louis and Madrid, Spain campuses were doubled in size; and the
7 University became the first American university to be officially recognized as a degree
8 granting institution by the Spanish Ministry of Education; and

9 **WHEREAS**, during Fr. Biondi's tenure the University's campuses underwent
10 significant transformations, including: construction of McDonnell Douglas Hall, the home
11 of Parks College of Engineering and Aviation; the over ten-thousand seat Chaifetz Arena
12 which brought men's basketball back to campus for the first time in sixty-years; a leading-
13 edge research facility, the Edward A. Doisy Research Center; the renovation of Scott Hall,
14 the new home of the University's School of Law located in the midst of downtown St.
15 Louis' legal and business communities and center of City government; conversion of the
16 former West Pine Gym to the 70,000 square foot Center for Global Citizenship; the
17 acquisition of facilities needed to provide a permanent home for the University's Madrid,
18 Spain campus, and the addition of San Ignacio Hall providing the Madrid campus a new
19 library, cafeteria, and fine and performing arts studios; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Fr. Biondi's transformation of the University's campus provided a
21 much, needed anchor for the development of Grand Center, and his vision for the area,

1 charisma, and leadership attracted private investment to this and other areas surrounding
2 the University's campus; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Fr. Biondi worked tirelessly with the City of St. Louis and private
4 developers to revive and bring in to use vacant and blighted properties such as The
5 Continental Building which would have not have been renovated but for the University's
6 investment; and

7 **WHEREAS**, under Fr. Biondi's leadership the University became a founding
8 member and initial investor in the CORTEX Innovation Community initiative; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Fr. Biondi is the recipient of numerous honors for his contributions
10 to the University, the City of St. Louis and surrounding region, including: Tree of Life
11 Award (*Jewish National Fund's highest humanitarian honor, annually presented to an*
12 *individual or family – 1997*); named a St. Louis Citizen of the Century (*St. Louis Post*
13 *Dispatch – 1999*); Leon R. Strauss Urban Pioneer Award (*St. Louis Ambassadors - 2001*);
14 St. Louis Civic Leadership Award (*City of St. Louis - 2001*); Mayor John H. Poelker Award
15 (*CORO Foundation - 2004*), St. Louis Citizen of the Year (*Awarded by past recipients,*
16 *sponsored by St. Louis Post Dispatch – 2005*); named a Top Ten Legend (*St. Louis Business*
17 *Journal – 2006*); John D. Levy Human Relations Award (*American Jewish Committee of*
18 *St. Louis - 2011*); Mayor's Civic Award (*Mayor Francis Slay - 2013*); and

19 **WHEREAS**, Fr. Biondi has served on the boards of directors of many local
20 organizations, including: the St. Louis Art Museum (1997 - 2013); the St. Louis Zoo (1994
21 - 2003); St. Louis Symphony (1993 - 2013); Missouri Botanical Garden (1987 - 2013);

1 Grand Center, St. Louis (1988 - 2010); CORTEX Innovation Community (*founding*
2 *member* 2002 - 2013); Saint Louis University High School (2013 – present); and Saint
3 Louis University Trustee and President Emeritus (2013 – present).

4 **WHEREAS**, it is for the forgoing reasons that an honorary street name is a fitting
5 and greatly deserved way to honor Fr. Lawrence Biondi, S.J. for his numerous and
6 significant contributions to the City of St. Louis.

7 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

8 **SECTION ONE.** Fr. Biondi S.J. Way shall begin at the intersection of Lindell
9 Boulevard and Grand Boulevard and run south on Grand Boulevard to the intersection of
10 Grand Boulevard and Highway 44.

11 **SECTION TWO.** Pursuant to Ordinance 68937, at least sixty percent of all
12 registered voters and / or persons owning a business on Grand Boulevard between the
13 intersections of Grand Boulevard and Lindell Boulevard and Grand Boulevard and
14 Highway 44 have signed a petition in support of this honorary street name.

15 **SECTION THREE.** Upon receipt of payment for manufacturing and installing
16 the honorary street signs, the Director of Streets shall install the honorary street signs, Fr.
17 Biondi S.J. Way, which signs shall remain in place for a period of one (1) year beginning
18 from the date of installation, at the following intersections and locations: the intersection
19 of Grand Boulevard and Lindell Boulevard on both the west and east sides of Grand
20 Boulevard; the crosswalk located between the intersections of Grand Boulevard and
21 Lindell Boulevard and Grand Boulevard and Laclede Avenue at the location of what was

1 formerly the intersection of West Pine Boulevard and Grand Boulevard; the intersection of
2 Grand Boulevard and Laclede Avenue on both the west and east sides of Grand Boulevard;
3 the crosswalk located between the intersections of Grand Boulevard and Forest Park
4 Avenue Boulevard; the intersection of Grand Boulevard and Chouteau Avenue on both the
5 west and east sides of Grand Boulevard; Grand Boulevard and Park Avenue at both the
6 west and east sides of Grand Boulevard; and Lafayette Avenue on both the west and east
7 sides of Grand Boulevard; the intersection of Grand Boulevard and the eastbound exit ramp
8 of Highway 44; and the intersection of Grand Boulevard and the westbound entrance ramp
9 to Highway 44. Subsequent to the expiration of the one (1) year period the Director of
10 Streets shall install the honorary street signs Fr. Biondi S.J. Way at the following
11 intersections and locations, as follows: one sign at the intersection of Grand Boulevard and
12 Lindell Boulevard; one sign at the crosswalk located between the intersections of Grand
13 Boulevard and Lindell Boulevard and Grand Boulevard and Laclede Avenue at the site of
14 what was formerly the intersection of Grand Boulevard and West Pine Boulevard; one sign
15 at the intersection of Grand Boulevard and Laclede Avenue; one sign at the intersection of
16 Grand Boulevard and Chouteau Avenue; one sign at the intersection of Grand Boulevard
17 and Park Avenue; and one sign at the intersection of Grand Boulevard and Highway 44.

18 **SECTION FOUR.** In the event that any of the honorary street signs placed at the
19 locations and intersections set forth in Section Three of this ordinance are damaged, taken
20 down, moved, or otherwise modified so that a sign is damaged or otherwise requires
21 replacement the Director of Streets shall promptly notify Saint Louis University of the
22 same and shall coordinate with Saint Louis University for the sign's replacement.