

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 142 INTRODUCED BY PRESIDENT REED**

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3 An ordinance pertaining to the establishment of an honorary Poet Laureate  
4 position for the City of St. Louis, creating a Poet Laureate Task Force and an effective  
5 date.

6 WHEREAS, poetry is a powerful form of literature that honors self-expression and  
7 promotes understanding within communities; and

8 WHEREAS, poetry has long been used to elicit a range of emotions and sentiments about  
9 place and time, culture and society; and

10 WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has an interest in supporting the vibrant and growing  
11 community of poets and expanding opportunities for young writers throughout the region.

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

13 **SECTION ONE.** The Poet Laureate shall be nominated to a two (2) year term and serve  
14 with the objective of:

- 15 a) celebrating the written and spoken poetic voices of residents;
- 16 b) increasing access to poetry throughout all parts of the community;
- 17 c) encouraging both the reading and writing of literature;
- 18 d) commemorating the City of St. Louis through works that speak to, for and of our  
19 region; and
- 20 e) officiating special events upon request throughout the term.

21 **SECTION TWO.** There shall be six (6) member Poet Laureate Task Force to administer  
22 the selection of a qualified candidate. This Task Force shall:

- 23 a) create an open nomination process;
- 24 b) establish selection criteria for the evaluation of candidates; and after considerable  
25 review,
- 26 c) recommend a candidate for Board of Aldermen approval.

1 **SECTION THREE.** The inaugural Poet Laureate Task Force shall be selected as

2 follows:

- 3 a) Membership: The Poet Laureate Task Force shall be comprised of a  
4 representative of the Mayor, a regional arts organization, a local institute of higher  
5 education, a resident with interest in poetry, a member of the regional business  
6 community and a representative of the President of the Board of Aldermen who  
7 shall serve as chair. Members shall be appointed by the chair with the advice of  
8 the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.
- 9 b) Term of Office: Each member of the Poet Laureate Task Force shall serve a four  
10 (4) year term (except as provided herein with respect to the initial members), with  
11 terms expiring as of June 31<sup>st</sup> of the designated year or when their successors are  
12 appointed as provided herein, whichever is later.
- 13 c) Initial Members and Terms: The initial members shall be appointed for the terms  
14 set forth as follows: the chair shall be appointed for a term expiring June 31,  
15 2017; two (2) members shall be appointed for a term expiring June 31, 2015; and  
16 two (3) members shall be appointed for a term expiring June 31, 2016.
- 17 d) Removal: The Mayor or President of the Board of Aldermen, with approval of the  
18 Board of Aldermen, may remove any member of the Poet Laureate Task Force for  
19 misconduct or neglect of duty upon written charges and after a public hearing.
- 20 e) Vacancies: Vacancies of the Poet Laureate Task Force, occasioned by removal,  
21 resignation, expiration of term, or otherwise, shall be reported to the Mayor and  
22 the President of the Board of Aldermen by the Poet Laureate Task Force. The  
23 vacancy shall be filled at the recommendation of the chair no later than thirty (30)  
24 days after the date of said report. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the  
25 unexpired portion of a term only.

**September 26, 2014**

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**Sponsored by: President Reed**

1 f) Compensation: The members of the Poet Laureate Task Force shall serve without  
2 compensation of any kind.

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4 **SECTION FOUR. Effective Date.** The Poet Laureate term shall commence on January  
5 1, 2015 and terminate on December 31, 2017, at which time a new term commences.