

1 **BOARD BILL NO. 259 INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN DIONNE FLOWERS**

2 An ordinance recommended by the Port Authority Commission of the City of St. Louis,
3 repealing ordinance 68909, which authorized an Option to Lease Agreement and Lease
4 Agreement between the City of St. Louis (“City”) and Grace Hill Settlement House (“Grace
5 Hill”), and enacting a new ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor and the Comptroller to
6 enter into a Lease Agreement between the City and Great Rivers Greenway District (“District”)
7 for certain land on the Unimproved Wharf for a period of ten (10) years commencing on the date
8 of execution with three (3) five-year (5-year) mutual options, in substantially the form as Exhibit
9 1 and Appendix A attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as Exhibit 1 and
10 Appendix A.

11 WHEREAS, the City owns two (2) parcels of real estate along the Mississippi riverfront as
12 particularly described on Exhibit 1, hereinafter referred to as the “Mary Meachum Site.” The
13 Mary Meachum Site is Missouri’s first nationally recognized Underground Railroad Site where,
14 according to 19th century newspaper accounts and the records of Henry Shaw, Mary Meachum,
15 a free woman of color, assisted nine freedom seekers who attempted to escape slavery; and

16 WHEREAS, the Mary Meachum Site was commemorated by Mayor Slay in 2001 and an annual
17 enactment of the event has occurred there every year since 2003; and

18 WHEREAS, ordinance 68909 authorized an Option to Lease Agreement and Lease Agreement
19 between the City and Grace Hill to allow for the development of the Mary Meachum Site; and

20 WHEREAS, the Option to Lease Agreement was not exercised by Grace Hill; and

21 WHEREAS, the District desires to lease the Mary Meachum Site and move forward with its
22 development into a national tourist destination to commemorate Mary Meachum’s efforts to
23 transport slaves to freedom; and

1 WHEREAS, the Port Authority of the City of St. Louis approved the Lease Agreement with the
2 District, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and Appendix A, by Port
3 Resolution 12-PT-21 on November 13, 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, the Board of Public Service of the City of St. Louis approved the Lease Agreement
5 with the District, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and Appendix A, on December 4,
6 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen finds that the provisions of the Lease Agreement with the
8 District are in the best interests of the City and the health, safety, morals and welfare of its
9 residents, and in accord with public purposes; and

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

11 **SECTION ONE.** Findings. The Board of Aldermen hereby adopts the foregoing recitals as
12 findings.

13 **SECTION TWO.** Ordinance 68909 is hereby repealed and in lieu thereof the Mayor and the
14 Comptroller of the City of St. Louis are authorized to enter into a Lease Agreement between the
15 City of St. Louis and Great Rivers Greenway District for certain land on the Unimproved Wharf
16 for a period of ten (10) years commencing on the date of execution with three (3) five-year (5-
17 year) mutual options, in substantially the form as Exhibit 1 and Appendix A attached hereto and
18 incorporated by reference herein as Exhibit 1 and Appendix A.

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