

**RESOLUTION 12 AA**  
**EXPLORING THE EFFECT OF WARD REDUCTION AND DEVELOP**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT**  
**TRANSITION FROM TWENTY-EIGHT TO FOURTEEN WARDS THROUGH**  
**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, on November 6, 2012, the electorate of the City of St. Louis passed by ballot measure the Charter Amendment known as the “Board of Aldermen Amendment Ordinance,” and which Ordinance has become law and is known as St. Louis City Ordinance #69185; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance #69185, beginning January 1, 2022, unless the voters decide otherwise, the city shall be divided into fourteen wards for the first time in its entire history and the Board of Aldermen will consist of fourteen aldermen and alderwomen beginning in April 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, racial and economic disparities between wards exist in the City of St. Louis resulting in drastic differences in quality of life, including access to health care, grocery stores, public transportation, green spaces, amenities, and educational and economic opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, under the current system, city services are not delivered equitably across the city and are often addressed at a ward level, such as repair and maintenance of city streets, sidewalks, and lighting; the planting of street trees; collection of refuse and recycling; and the development and maintenance of city parks; and

**WHEREAS**, certain issues that impact the preservation and development of neighborhoods are addressed at the ward level, such as the establishment of historic guidelines, moratoria on liquor licenses, and the disbursement of tax incentives for development projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of the City of St. Louis rely on their aldermen and alderwomen to deliver constituent services and legislate for the city as a whole, and the role of aldermen and alderwomen must necessarily change in order to represent justly and effectively more people living in a greater land area; and

**WHEREAS**, an advisory committee dedicated to understanding the changing dynamic of aldermanic representation, as the Board of Aldermen prepares to reduce its number from twenty-eight to fourteen, will provide a systematic and organized process for hearing concerns and opportunities from constituents, city employees, aldermen, public policy experts, and others, and for making recommendations for a just, equitable, and efficient transition that will ultimately result in improved city services for residents and improved governance from its elected representatives.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we direct the Legislation Committee to convene an advisory committee for the purpose of evaluating the necessary steps required to transition the Board of Aldermen from representing twenty-eight wards to fourteen and making recommendations to the City of St. Louis to facilitate a transition that results in more just and efficient government.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that at the conclusion of one year, by May 31, 2019, unless the voters choose to maintain the Board of Aldermen as a body of twenty-eight in the interim, the advisory committee will share its findings and recommendations with the Legislation Committee and upon its adoption by the Committee, with the Board of Aldermen at the next regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen. This report will describe the anticipated effects of ward reduction, including, but not limited to, the effects on: 1) the delivery of constituent services, 2) the capacity of the Board of Aldermen to fulfill its various roles and functions, 3) impacted ordinances that refer to specific wards by number, and 4) ward capital budgets. Furthermore, this report will make recommendations regarding the equitable delivery of city services and any additional capacity required at the Board of Aldermen to effectively. The report will also identify any other areas to be addressed by the Board of Aldermen in anticipation of ward reduction. The advisory committee will provide an interim report to the Legislation Committee six months from its first convening. The aforementioned advisory committee is not limited in size but will consist of representatives from the general public; the Board of Aldermen; the City Councilor's office; and neighborhood organizations. The advisory committee will seek input from residents, representatives from various city agencies, including but not limited to the Board of Public Service; the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry; and the Department of Public Safety; as well as experts from local institutions of higher education in the areas of public policy, social justice, and governance. Specifically, the working group is charged with engaging representatives from Forward Through Ferguson, the Equity Indicators Project, the City Budget Division, and the Community Development Administration.

Introduced this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018 by:

**The Honorable Heather Navarro Alderwoman 28th Ward**

The Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward

The Honorable Cara Spencer, Alderwoman 20th Ward

The Honorable Scott Ogilvie, Alderman 24th Ward

The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018 as attested by

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Louis Galli  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen