

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 15**  
**Pastor Shirley Caesar**

**WHEREAS**, raised in North Carolina, Pastor Shirley Caesar grew in an environment of obstacles; segregation, the death of her father at eight years old and caring for a semi-invalid mother. This made for a less than ideal upbringing for this budding star, but she accepted the challenges with her head held high. She has stayed close to her roots, but her personal and professional credits prove her unfaltering devotion; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Shirley Caesar began singing as a young girl in church. Meanwhile struggling with school, she was encouraged to pursue goals outside of academics. In characteristic strength, she continued with education while developing into a remarkable musical talent; and

**WHEREAS**, she eventually graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing from Shaw University, and has been granted several honorary degrees from other educational institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, she began her professional singing career with the Caravans in the mid 60s, performing and recording with the group. In 1966, her solo career began to take flight as audiences learned of and yearned for her soul stirring voice; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Shirley Caesar has recorded over forty albums since the 60s exploring her gift and spreading messages of faith. She has participated in over 16 compilations and three gospel musicals, *Mama I Want to Sing*, *Sing: Mama 2*, and *Born to Sing: Mama 3*; and

**WHEREAS**, her credits also include a series of commercials for MCI Communications and several awards for her recordings. She has been awarded 11 Grammy Awards, 13 Stellar Awards, 18 Doves, 3 RIAA gold certifications, an Essence Award, McDonald's Golden Circle Lifetime Achievement Award, NAACP Achievement Award, SESAC Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Pastor Shirley has made several notable appearances including the televised Live from Disney World Night of Joy, the Gospel According to VH-1, a White House performance for President George Bush, and a speech on the Evolution of Gospel Music to the US Treasury Department; and

**WHEREAS**, while Pastor Caesar has enjoyed a fulfilling career, her personal achievements are just as commendable. She is married to Bishop Harold Williams, husband of twenty years. She is Pastor of a growing congregation, Mount Calvary Word of Faith Holy Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. This ministry has grown from seventeen to over 500 members; and

**WHEREAS**, she cites her mother as a strong influence in her decision to give so selflessly of herself. The pastor has committed a sizeable portion of all concert sales to her Outreach Ministries, continues to deliver weekly sermons and leads an annual Outreach Ministries conference; and

**WHEREAS**, living a life devoted to greatness, Pastor Caesar is doing her part to make it all a little better. With a schedule including recording, performing, and ministering, Pastor Shirley constantly finds ways to spread messages of love and encouragement. She is a warm soul with remarkable intentions and talent evidenced by her selfless acts and expansive artistic prowess.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor Pastor Shirley Caesar and direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of the resolution over the permanent rolls of this Board and to prepare a fitting copy of this resolution to be presented to the honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by its sponsor.

Introduced on the 27th day of April, 2012 by:

**Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Adopted this the 27th day of April, 2012 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen