

Resolution Number 23

Mary Mary

WHEREAS, the Atkins sisters grew up as part of a large family of nine children in Inglewood, California. Their parents are Thomasina, an evangelist and choir director at the Evangelistic Church of God in Christ, and, Eddie, a youth minister; and

WHEREAS, Mary Mary was subsequently signed to Columbia Records/C2 Records and decided to perform under the name Mary Mary, honoring Mary, the mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. They were the first gospel act to record for the industry giant Columbia Records since Tramaine Hawkins in the mid-1990s; and

WHEREAS, Mary Mary is an American gospel music duo, consisting of sisters Erica Atkins-Campbell and Trecina Atkins-Campbell are often credited for helping to broaden the fan base of gospel music with their popular song "Shackles (Praise You)" it is considered one of the pioneering songs of urban contemporary gospel; and

WHEREAS, Mary Mary's debut album Thankful (2000) was certified Platinum. The duo has released three Gold albums: Thankful (2000), Incredible (2002), and Mary Mary (2005), which all charted No. 1 on the Billboard Top Gospel Albums. They have also received three Grammys, among many other awards and became the first gospel artist to crack the R&B top ten and gain wide exposure on the MTV; and

WHEREAS, Mary Mary, with their tremendous accomplishments, are quick to point out that they're driven by something far greater--"It's not just about musical achievements, awards, charts and sales," says Erica. "That's not our guiding light. It's about connecting with people and offering them real hope...hope that, ultimately, changes lives." "We're committed to our message and purpose," adds Tina. "Years later, we're still here; our fans are still with us and our audience is still growing. We're just so grateful to still have this opportunity."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the contributions and selflessness of sisters Erica Atkins-Campbell and Trecina Atkins-Campbell and direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this resolution to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on the 13th day of May, 2012 by:

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Adopted this 13th day of May, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen