

RESOLUTION NO. 29

Ira James Fowlkes

WHEREAS, Mr. Fowlkes was the General Manager KBDY-FM at the age 27, one of the youngest GMs in America. He was the Co-Founder of the National Black Media Association for St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fowlkes helped obtain historic designation for the Ville Neighborhood and helped establish Ville Fair working with the VP Foundation. It was the first Black non-profit to have booth at the VP Fair and partner to create the first fireworks display in North St. Louis. He was chairman of the Northside Preservation Commission, representing the 3rd Ward and 26th Ward; and

WHEREAS, he was Executive Director of the Dr. Martin Luther King Committee, which hosted a parade for the King Holiday, drawing over 5,000 participants and over 30,000 spectators; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fowlkes was a member of IBEW Local 2 and worked as an Organizer. He was also a member of St. Louis Labor Council, Teamsters Local 688. He helped organize the Coalition of Black Trade Unions; and

WHEREAS, from 1985-2010 he worked for the City of St. Louis overseeing the construction of city cable systems. He designed the system for installations of government buildings, all public schools, private and parochial, designed present right-of-way process for installing cable in the City of St. Louis right-of-ways and maintain all records, help create local government access channel (STLTV.ORG) purchase first equipment, resolved over 100,000 complaints for subscribers, business, alderman and contractor's, and design EEO process for cable companies; and

WHEREAS, BFGF Inc. with the Hudson family built 20 homes, changing the Delmar/Vandeventer Neighborhood, this was a multi-million dollar project. All homes were sold and are presently occupied; and

WHEREAS, his greatest joys was when he took over 1,000 children to the Steamers Soccer games and the Forest Park picnics, allowing them to appreciate the beautiful treasures St. Louis as to offered, showing them that life can be good for them too. Also he took over 500 seniors to dinner, rented a hall and allowed them to enjoy themselves as well as to be appreciated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fowlkes hosted a talk show on KATZ-AM for over 10 years and 1 year at WGNU-AM and is a member of Church on the Rock; and

WHEREAS, he is married to Karen Drayton-Fowlkes and has four children, Dawn Fowlkes, Dionne Fowlkes, Krystal (Fowlkes) Harris and Joshua T. Hughes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we happily pause in our deliberations to recognize the many achievements of Ira James Fowlkes and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the permanent rolls of this Board and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 18th day of May, 2012 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this the 18th day of May, 2012 as attested:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

