

Resolution Number 64
Voices for Children

WHEREAS, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) movement began in 1977 when a Seattle judge became increasingly frustrated about making decisions for children of abuse when he didn't have enough information. Sadly, the case that launched the CASA movement involved a child who died while under custody of the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) was granted permission to serve as the lead agency in piloting a CASA program in St. Louis County. The organization's advocacy efforts proved to be a viable and important part of the county's child welfare system and in 1995, CASA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis City's CASA program was established in 1984, when the St. Louis City Family court Established a Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (VGAL) program to provide a representative at every family court hearing for child victims of abuse and neglect. The work of the VGAL program was coordinated by the Women's Crusade Against Crime; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, at the urging of the court after the dissolution of the Crusade, St. Louis City CASA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization. St. Louis City CASA changed its name to Voices for Children in 2005 to better articulate its mission. Over its 30-year history, these two organizations have helped several thousand kids achieve safety, stability and a more hopeful future; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2011, the boards of CASA of St. Louis County and Voices for Children approved the merger of the two organizations. This historic decision followed nearly 18 months of deliberation and brings the collective resources of both organizations together to give all St. Louis foster children a stronger voice.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Voices for Children and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to include a copy of this Resolution in the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy for presentation at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 14th day of June, 2013 by:

Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward

Adopted this the 14th day of June, 2013 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen