

**RESOLUTION NO. 81**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the East St. Louis Race Riot**

**WHEREAS**, it has come to the attention of this honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis of the 100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of East St. Louis Race Riot that occurred July 1-3, 1917 in East St. Louis, IL; and

**WHEREAS**, this race riot devastated the City of East St. Louis and had a lasting and significant impact upon the entire region greatly affecting the City of St. Louis, MO, Lovejoy, IL, and later Kinloch, MO; and

**WHEREAS**, no one is certain of the numbers, but historical accounts state that over 350 African-Americans were killed over the three days of carnage by attacks by angry white mobs and 90% of the Black section of the City of East St. Louis was burned to the ground; and

**WHEREAS**, this horrific event was covered by the St. Louis Argus newspaper, the Post-Dispatch, and others, each giving first hand gory accounts of the mass killings and attacks spurred by racism and concerns by White East St. Louisans that “Blacks” would take their jobs at the aluminum ore company and other factories in the metro east; and

**WHEREAS**, such gross oppression is often followed by powerful resistance shown by many, both Black and White, who took in the refugees including the City of St. Louis who allowed escaping Black families pouring across the Eads Bridge a place to stay at the St. Louis Municipal Lodging House then located just across from City Hall at 110-112 South Tucker; and

**WHEREAS**, according to written news accounts the acting St. Louis Mayor, Louis P. Aloe, took \$100.00, considered a significant amount of money in 1917, from the Mayor’s contingent account to provide food and drink for the fleeing and now homeless families; and

**WHEREAS**, in further response and resistance to racism the St. Louis Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement Colored People (NAACP) assisted in relief efforts, advocated for restitution for the at least 7,000 African-Americans families who lost their homes; later, the St. Louis Urban League was formed to advocate for change and to give relief for the surviving families; and

**WHEREAS**, working to provide housing, the Urban League helped relocate many of the surviving families to the City of St. Louis and the then small residential area known as Kinloch, MO, causing it to grow in size and importance in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous commemorative activities are planned for 100<sup>th</sup> observance of the riot throughout the metro area sponsored by various organizations, including the Freedom Trails, Legacies of Hope, of East St. Louis, TEACH and the Committee for Historical Truth, both of St. Louis, with the theme being set by the East St. Louis 1917 Centennial Commission and Cultural Initiative (CCCI), formed in 2014 by the East. Louis Mayor, as “Remember. Commemorate. Rebuild”; and

**WHEREAS**, July 2, 1917 was considered the worse day of rioting; on July 2, 2017 a silent procession, reminiscent of the procession held in late July 1917 in Harlem, NY by the NAACP to bring attention to the horrific killings, will start in the riot area and end on Eads Bridge, which was used by many to escape the carnage; and

**WHEREAS**, the study of history can be used to learn from the past so that a brighter and more unified future can be created; thus, it is important to not sweep this event under the rug, but to squarely and openly look at it toward ending discrimination and ensuring equity, equality, and raising the level of human life for all people living in our metropolitan area.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by this honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the events and issues that caused the East St. Louis Race Riot and by adoption of this resolution join in the 100<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Activities, congratulate those who have kept the history alive. We further directs the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this resolution across the minutes of these proceedings 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 30th day of June, 2017, by:

**The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward**

Adopted the 30th day of June, 2017, as attested by:

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Donna Evans-Booker  
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen