

**RESOLUTION NO. 81**  
**The Rev. Rodney Francis**

**WHEREAS**, the Rev. Rodney Francis serves as senior pastor of the historic Washington Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church at the corner of Compton and Washington in the city's Grand Center Arts District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rev. Francis is a native of Florida and arrived in St. Louis in 2006 after having spent two years in nonprofit services in Columbus, Ohio, and 10 years in the New York/New Jersey Metro areas as senior pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Boonton, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rev. Francis is committed to building bridges between the church and the community; his congregation has initiated a Micro-Lending Ministry to counter families' dependence on predatory lending institutions; it has lead a community forum against youth gun violence; it has facilitated a community viewing and panel discussion of the Pruitt Igoe film with over 600 in attendance; it has held a symposium on the Affordable Care Act; and it has during elections served as the a transportation hub for Souls-to-Polls, an ecumenical movement to increase voter turnout; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rev. Francis also serves as executive director of The Youth and Family Center, a 125-year-old neighborhood settlement house and charter member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis that serves over 3,000 youth, seniors, and families annually with social support services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rev. Francis holds a master's degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a bachelor of arts degree from the College of New Rochelle, New York City; he is also a 2009 graduate of The Ohio State University Executive Leadership and Management Program and a 2012 graduate of Focus Leadership St. Louis; he is married to Leah Gunning Francis, Ph.D; they reside in the Botanical Heights community with their children Shayla, Evan, and Desmond.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we thank the Rev. Rodney Francis for his years of service to our community. We further instruct the Clerk to spread a copy of this resolution over the permanent rolls of this Board, as well as a commemorative copy to the end that it might be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 30th day of June, 2016, by:

**The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward**

Adopted this the 30th day of June, 2016, as attested by:

---

Timothy O'Connell  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

---

Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen