

Resolution Number 87
Jo Ann Vatcha

Whereas, the many ways in which Jo Ann Vatcha has made our City a better place to live, work and play are too numerous to recount in total; and

Whereas, Jo Ann and her husband Neville were pioneers in the revitalization of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood; and

Whereas, Jo Ann began working on The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere in 1974, served as editor and with her husband Neville held many backyard parties/fundraisers for the paper; and

Whereas, In 1989 Jo Ann assumed the chair of the Commercial Committee, known as the Delmar Committee, spearheading the redevelopment of the East Loop; and

Whereas, Jo Ann authored a history of Skinker- DeBaliviere for the neighborhood centennial in 2008; and

Whereas, Jo Ann was a schoolteacher and later headed the St. Louis affiliate of Neighborhood Housing Services before being hired by Operation Impact in 1991; and

Whereas, Jo Ann led Operation Impact's Hope 3 revitalization program as a housing analyst and spurred the redevelopment of many city neighborhoods using Hope 3, Community Development Block Grant and other federal, state and local resources and tools; and

Whereas, in 1999, as part of a reorganization of the City's development agencies, Jo Ann became a housing analyst at the Community Development Administration; and

Whereas, Jo Ann has worked especially closely with the Benton Park, Benton Park West, Shaw and Penrose neighborhoods and the housing corporations serving them; and

Whereas, Jo Ann has greatly furthered neighborhood stabilization and revitalization, housing investment and community pride, building networks of concerned and knowledgeable neighbors, developers, investors and property owners; and

Whereas, Jo Ann will begin her well-earned retirement on August 1, 2012; and

Whereas, Jo Ann made this decision at the urging of her husband Neville, her daughters Chanaya and Dina, their husbands, her grandchildren, and many friends who want to enjoy more time with her; and

Whereas, Jo Ann made this decision despite pleading from her co-workers and clients in city government and in neighborhoods throughout the City; and,

Whereas, Jo Ann will be greatly missed by her CDA colleagues, her friends at the Board of Alderman and by those throughout City government and in the neighbors where she has worked so successfully.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to thank and congratulate Jo Ann Vatcha for her many years of service to the City and citizens of St. Louis and we wish her peace and happiness in her retirement and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further 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 14th day of September, 2012 by:

Honorable Kenneth A. Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward

Adopted this the 14th day of September, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen