

Resolution Number 86
Lotus Avenue Block Party Reunion

WHEREAS, On September 21, 2013, the triple block of Lotus Avenue (5000-5200) in the Kingsway West Neighborhood of North St. Louis, celebrated its first “United Block Party” and the original idea and planning for this event came from five men who lived on the blocks; and

WHEREAS, These men not only planned this block party, but they also prepared and cooked all the ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken, and fish as well as recruited other block residents to provide side dishes to go along with the prepared meats; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the cooking and recruiting of others to provide side dishes, they also made contact with out-of town family members and friends who grew up on the block to request their attendance to this great celebration. Much to their surprise, the response was phenomenal and the block party morphed into a beautiful, heart-warming, tear-filled family reunion; and

WHEREAS, The children played on a huge bounce house and were served snow cones and cotton candy treats which was a big hit with everyone. Horses trotted down the block for our children’s entertainment, and every young person received a bag of treats. A D.J. was hired for music entertainment. Special honors were given to the oldest person living on the block, and to the first African American family that moved onto the block in 1951 and the men pulled off one of the best “United Block Parties” in the history of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, The team of men understood the importance of and were committed to community unity. That commitment continued through the 2013-2014 fall and winter seasons. While continuing this camaraderie of working together for the 5000-5200 block of Lotus, tragedy struck on January 5, 2014 when one of the men, Mr. Orin Clark passed away after shoveling snow at his home; and

WHEREAS, In January 2014 there was a historic amount of snowfall in the City of St. Louis and the snowfall reached a height which made it impossible for the City of St. Louis to plow the City’s side streets yet, it was imperative to have the 5000-5200 blocks Lotus clear of snow and ice from the streets for the grieving family of Mr. Clark who were planning their loved one’s funeral service; and

WHEREAS, The four remaining friends discussed a possible solution to the snow dilemma and their solution was to clear the street of snow and ice themselves. Therefore, one cold day in January 2014, Mr. Clark’s four friends worked tirelessly from early morning until late afternoon to clear the street and sewer drains, of snow and ice so that by evening the entire triple blocks of Lotus was clear making way for the grieving family and friends of Mr. Clark to park on the street during their time of mourning; and

WHEREAS, There is constant search for people, especially men who are willing to volunteer and serve in our communities and thereby set an examples for the next generation of what true community means and set examples through their actions of some of the things a real man does to help his community; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Lotus Avenue are grateful to the men who live on their block who are willing to give of themselves for the peace and safety of the community and look forward to these men continuing to be a beacon of light for our community to follow. As such the four surviving men have begun plans for the 2014 Block Party/Family Reunion whose motto is, “The Neighborhoods of North St. Louis are Wonderful Places to Live and Together We Can Make it Better”; and

WHEREAS, There is often negative attention given to those who do the wrong thing but very little attention and appreciation for those who everyday do the right thing or for those who go above and beyond their duty in doing the right thing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Members of this Honorable Board of Aldermen join the sponsor of this resolution and the residents of Lotus in expressing their deepest appreciation and heartfelt thank you to, Mr. Jimmy Latimore, Mr. Larry Hearn, Mr. Moddia Reid, and Mr. John Weaver and posthumously to Mr. Orin Clark, for their service and commitment to; the 5000-5200 Block of Lotus, the Kingsway West Neighborhood and the City of St. Louis, Missouri.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of this Honorable Board of Aldermen be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution to present to Mr. Jimmy Latimore, Mr. Larry Hearn, Mr. Moddia Reid, and Mr. John Weaver and to the family of Mr. Orin Clark, at the appropriate time and place.

Introduced on the 27th day of June, 2014 by:

Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward

Adopted this the 27th day of June, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen