

RESOLUTION NUMBER 104

DR. ELMIRA WILLIAMS

WHEREAS, Dr. Elmira Williams was born on April 8, 1934 in Leland, Mississippi. She was the second child born to Terett Anderson and Elijah Cotton; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1940's the family migrated north to St. Louis for better living conditions and a prospering life. Elmira was an exceptional child with an entrepreneurial spirit and an innovative mind. While hanging around the Cardinal Baseball field at the age of ten, she met Stan Musial. She convinced him and his teammates to allow her to get their lunch from the deli every day throughout the summer. After three years Elmira created a second job for herself, when the dishwasher at the deli quit, she jumped at the opportunity to work but there was one slight problem, she was only thirteen years old. So being innovative, she put on her mother's high heel shoes, a big coat and hat and pretended she was her mother and applied for her own worker's permit, then she started work that same week; and

WHEREAS, Elmira was educated in the St Louis Public School System graduating from Vashon High School in 1949 at the age of fifteen. Her love for education motivated her to pursue additional success later on in life. Elmira had a keen sense of fashion while in high school and quickly became a fashion Diva; and

WHEREAS, Elmira earned an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies, a Bachelor of Science in Religious Education, a Masters of Arts in Theology and a Doctorate of Humane Letters from St. Michaels Institute of Metaphysics in St. Louis, MO; and

WHEREAS, in 1953 Elmira confessed her hope in Jesus Christ at St. Douglas Primitive Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Russell Mann. When she joined the church, her statement was "God if you make me your servant, I will serve you until I die"; and

WHEREAS, Elmira married the first love of her life, Charles Morris Sr., on April 18, 1954. To this union six gifted children were born; Connie, Debora Ann, Charles Jr (Junebug), Erica (Ladybug), Larry (Bum Bum), and Karen (Nookie). The family truly believes that a family that prays together stays together. Family time was set aside to pray, sing, travel and enjoy life; and

WHEREAS, On March 12, 1972 Elmira married the second love of her life, David J. Williams and continued her service to the Lord. Mr. Williams brought six children to the marriage and there was one big happy family. Dave and Elmira were known to have large back yard celebrations and grand Christmas parties where food and presents were plentiful and everybody felt welcomed at the Williams home; and

WHEREAS, Elmira was a friend that you will never forget, she had a keen sense of humor and was an entertaining story teller. She reached out to all walks of life and was loved by her neighbors in the 5200 block of Genevieve. She could cook a meal comparable only to the finest chef and graciously serve you with a smile. Her family and friends are left to cherish the memories and hold on to the laughter and the love, left by an angel, *Mama, Granny, Mrs. Williams, Evangelist, Mentor, friend, the Grand Lady, Dr. Elmira Williams*;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Alderman that we pause in our deliberations to honor the life of Dr. Elmira Williams and we further direct the Clerk of this Board of Alderman 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 this 28th day of July, 2017, by:

The Honorable Pam Boyd, Alderwoman 27th Ward

Adopted this 28th day of July, 2017, as attested by: