

GATEWAY ARCH RENAMING AND REDIDICATION IN HONOR PERCY GREEN II

WHEREAS, Percy Green II, born in the Compton Hill neighborhood of St. Louis, is a social worker and black activist in the City of St. Louis, Missouri, and has fought for equality and Black inclusion in the St. Louis region for nearly half a century; and

WHEREAS, Green was active in the St. Louis chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, a founding member of ACTION (Action Committee to Improve Opportunities for Negroes), and the plaintiff in the landmark civil rights case McDonnell Douglas Corp v. Green, among several other landmark actions related to Civil Rights; and

WHEREAS, On July 14, 1964, Green and Richard Daly, a white college student, scaled the Gateway Arch to protest the exclusion of blacks from federal contracts and jobs related to the construction of the Arch, and Green, Daly, and protesters on the ground demanded that MacDonald Construction Company, the contractor responsible for constructing the Arch, raise the number of African Americans employed on the project to 10% within 10 days Green, and for his actions he was charged with trespassing and other offenses; and

WHEREAS, Less than two months after climbing the Arch, Green was laid off by McDonnell Douglas Corporation, where he was employed as a mechanic and laboratory technician, McDonnell Douglas claiming that the layoff was caused by budget constraints, but Green alleged that he was fired because of his race, and the case was ultimately decided in Green's favor by the Supreme Court, in a landmark decision that clarified discrimination law by establishing the McDonnell Douglas burden-shifting framework; and

WHEREAS, this protest was one of several that inspired the United States Department of Justice to file the first pattern or practice case against AFL-CIO under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, today, a photo of Percy Green hangs inside the Gateway Arch in a display commemorating its history.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Percy Green's contributions to the struggle for Civil Rights in the City of St. Louis and beyond, and be it further resolved that this Board of Aldermen calls upon U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt, and Representative Lacy Clay to take steps to rename and rededicate the Gateway Arch as the Percy Green II Arch.

Introduced this 14th day of September, 2018 by:

The Honorable John Collins-Muhammad, Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this 14th day of September, 2018 as attested by: