

RESOLUTION NUMBER 136

WHEREAS, the operation of the Parks Department is a vital and important interest to the St Louis Board of Aldermen and to the Citizens of St. Louis City, as is the elimination of corruption and fraud in all operations of the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Stritzel, former St. Louis City Chief Park Ranger, and Joseph Vacca, former Deputy Parks Commissioner were indicted by grand jury on May 15, 2013 on charges of mail fraud in violation of federal law; and

WHEREAS, in early 2005 Stritzel and Vacca created shell corporations known as D & G and Dynamic Management Group. From May 2005 to June 2010 Stritzel and Vacca submitted approximately forty-five (45) invoices to the City of St. Louis for sham charges, which were then paid out to D&G or Dynamic Management Group. Stritzel and Vacca received the funds from these corporations for personal use; and

WHEREAS, from January 2007 to December 2011 Stritzel and Vacca submitted further sham invoices to the City of St. Louis purportedly for general equipment purchases and the supply and repair of handheld radios. These invoices were paid by the city of St. Louis, and the funds were appropriated by Dynamic Management Group for the personal use of Stritzel and Vacca; and

WHEREAS, in August 2010 Stritzel and Vacca submitted further sham invoices for the repair and maintenance of handheld radios for the Parks Department; and

WHEREAS, the total sum embezzled and defrauded has been estimated at \$464,722.00; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Vacca and Thomas Stritzel have plead guilty to defrauding the City of St. Louis and are scheduled to be sentenced December 12, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen should work to assure that its taxpaying public have confidence that their taxes are wisely spent.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we direct the Parks and Environment Matters Committee of this board to convene hearings for the purpose of examining and investigating the events, conditions, circumstances and failures that lead to Mr. Stritzel and Mr. Vacca's indictments. We further direct the committee to include in such discussion Mr. Gary D. Bess, Parks Director and all other parties, individuals, and documents deemed appropriate and necessary by the Parks and Environmental Matters Committee to conduct a fair and thorough investigation.

Introduced on the 11th day of October, 2013 by:

Honorable Antonio D. French Alderman 21st Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted this the 11th day of October, 2013 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen