

Resolution Number 145
Michael Johnson

Whereas, Michael began the ministry of music at the age of 9 years old, playing for the junior choir at Devotional Baptist Church under the Pastorage of Rev. Nathaniel Dunn.. As he grew he began to play for the other various choirs in the church. During his early years of music he was mentored by his great aunt Luetta Massey, Geneva Dalton, Ronald Metcalf, The Kinloch Community choir, and Mrs. Essie Rae Metcalf. He played gospel music in the Kinloch High School Choir, The Kinloch Community Choir, and Premiere Gospel Vocalist Geneva Dalton. His ear was so keen that when he heard a James Cleveland, Clara Ward or other music he would go home and pick it out on the piano. He was a great lover of the Music of Motown because of the music telling stories. He began writing songs in 1968 after Ms. Metcalf introduced him to the music of The Northern California State Youth Choir (The Edwin Hawkins Singers); and

Whereas, in 1972 Michael began playing for Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church thus staying there for 23 years. During the years at Bethel, Michael also played for several other churches, St. Michael's Temple of the Expanded Mind, Nash Prayer Band, New Bethlehem, First Baptist of Kinloch, St. Paul A.M.E Church, Love Outreach Victory Temple, Northern Baptist Church; and

Whereas, in 1975-1980 he was a musician and lead singer/mgr of a premiere, local secular band called "Otha Band" thus changing their name to "Sheer Energy." This 13 piece band toured the United States for several years. During this time he was also a musician for gospel legendary local group The Gospeleers and Zella Jackson Price and Doris Fiddmont; and

Whereas, for the next years to come God did some miraculous things in his life. His territory became enlarged as he began to do so many things. He remained playing for various churches and 1981 bought him to Ms. Sharon Lowery Dent in East St Louis. Ms Dent had a vision of starting a recording studio, music school and entertainment complex and she hired Michael to develop the dream and after two years the music school had over 200 students, piano, vocal, bass and lead guitar teachers; and

Whereas, In 1982 world renowned saxophonist/producer, Oliver Sain used Michael for several recording sessions with various artists thus leading to him recording Michael and The Michael Johnson Singers and a solo project on Michael. Both projects were released in the national and international market and did very well; and

Whereas, Michael remained faithful to his churches locally which would cause friction with the record company executives because it limited his traveling to promote the recordings; and

Whereas, the nineties brought him more areas into Radio, GMWA and the El King Music group. This was an era that Michael learned more and shared all he had learned from the previous years with new people in his ministry life; and

Whereas, 2000 brought more areas of ministry, several funeral homes would now want him to be a part of their staff for their music. His affiliation with gospel music Workshop of America brought more recognition to him as a songwriter resulting in a composition entitled "When You pray" to be part of New music Class for 2 years and in Mass Choir for 1 year resulting in the combined sales of over 4000 copies of sheet music. The song was later recorded by the Gateway area Chapter Choir and also The St Louis fellowship Choir; and

Whereas, he is currently Minister of Music at Southern Mission Baptist Church in Kinloch under the Pastorage of Bishop John Mitchell and Minister Of Music at Metropolitan Baptist Church under the Pastorage of Rev. Leonard Dennis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the many contributions of Michael Johnson to the citizens of the City of St. Louis and we wish him continued success and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to 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 12th day of October, 2012 by:

Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Adopted this the 12th day of October, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen