

Resolution Number 158
Reverend Melvin Smotherson

WHEREAS, It has to the attention of this honorable Board of Alderman of the City of St. Louis of the upcoming celebration of the Reverend Melvin Smotherson to be held at Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church Sunday, November 9, 2014 at 3pm; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Melvin Smotherson is the Founder and Pastor of Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, he pushed for a cooperative venture between private funders, the church, community groups and the City to fund and construct decorative sculpture at street blockage at Walton and Washington Streets with other capital improvements to the block; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Melvin Smotherson raised money and renovated the vacate building at Washington and Walton for the church and for community use. He has allowed community organizations to use the facility, organized summer youth programming for area youth and worked with various civil rights organizations to push for equal rights for the disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Smotherson has also been the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Creve Coeur 1963-71; Cong., Historian Baptist State Sunday School & BTU 1974-75; Vice President of the Ministers Union of Greater St Louis 1977-79; pastor Washington Tabernacle Baptist Church 1971-80 and pastor of Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church since 1980; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Smotherson was the Junior Warden/Grand Chaplain and Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge; Honorable Mention of the Michigan Grand Lodge F&AM; Deputy Imperial Chaplin of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order and a member of the executive committee of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, he was born Nov 6, 1936 in Hattiesburg, MS the son of Melvin and Estella S Rogers, married Geraldine Jackson on Jun 23, 1957 and has children: Charles, Bwayne, Pamela & Darren; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of Rev. Smotherson are too numerous to cover in this one writing; and

WHEREAS, because of his many accomplishments on behave of this community and the church efforts are now underway to honorifically name the 500 block of Walton the Rev. Melvin Smotherson Avenue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we happily pause in our deliberations to recognize the many contributions of the Rev. Melvin Smotherson and by adoption of this resolution wish to join in with all others honoring him and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the permanent rolls of this Board and to prepare a commemorative copy of this Resolution to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on this 7th day of November, 2014 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted November 7, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen