

Resolution Number 182

Gary D. Bess

WHEREAS, we have been apprised of the upcoming retirement of Mr. Gary D. Bess; and

WHEREAS, Gary Bess has worked for over 40 years with the City of St. Louis. He has served as the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry for the past 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Gary received a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1973 from Southern Illinois University. He worked as a permanent substitute teacher and coach for the St. Louis Board of Education. He taught at Roosevelt High School from 1973 until 1974; and

WHEREAS, Gary started his career with the City of St. Louis in 1974 as the recreation supervisor for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. He was responsible for administrating various recreation programs at Steinberg Rink and the Aquatic Program as well as budget development; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 Gary became the Recreation Program Manager, where he was responsible for the development and implementation of recreational activities on a city and metropolitan wide basis; and

WHEREAS, Gary served as Deputy Director for Operation Brightside from 1981 until 1982. He developed and implemented a multi-faceted program to clean up and beautify the City utilizing municipal resources, citizen volunteers and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Gary became the Forestry Commissioner in 1982 until 1993. In April 1993 he became the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. As Director he has been responsible for the care and maintenance of over 3,200 acres of park land and related facilities including two new recreation complexes and two municipal golf courses; 87,000 street trees, 30,000 park trees, 22,000 vacant lots and 9,000 vacant buildings; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Director, Gary has accomplished numerous improvements to the City's Parks, for example, he planned and directed one hundred million dollars of capital improvements to Forest Park. He negotiated the Art Museum lease insuring long term presence in the park and ten million dollars for park improvements. He commissioned and chaired the plans for the state of the art O'Fallon and Carondelet Recreation Centers. He completed the program which was started in 1982, to grade, seed and maintain the City's 22,000 vacant lots. He developed a preventive maintenance program to remove debris and provide monthly cutting to the City's 9,000 vacant buildings from May through September; and

WHEREAS, Gary has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for his exemplary accomplishments with the City of St. Louis Parks Department.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to thank and honor Mr. Gary D. Bess for his many years of service to the St. Louis region and we wish him well in retirement 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 December, 2014 by:

Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board	Honorable Megan Green, Alderwoman 15 th Ward
Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2 nd Ward	Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16 th Ward
Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3 rd Ward	Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17 th Ward
Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4 th Ward	Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18 th Ward
Honorable Tammika Hubbard, Alderwoman 5 th Ward	Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19 th Ward
Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6 th Ward	Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20 th Ward
Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7 th Ward	Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21 st Ward
Honorable Stephen J. Conway, Alderman 8 th Ward	Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22 nd Ward
Honorable Kenneth A. Ortmann, Alderman 9 th Ward	Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23 rd Ward
Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10 th Ward	
Honorable Thomas Villa, Alderman 11 th Ward	Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25 th Ward
Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12 th Ward	Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26 th Ward
Honorable Beth Murphy, Alderwoman 13 th Ward	Honorable Chris Carter, Alderman 27 th Ward
Honorable Carol Howard, Alderwoman 14 th Ward	Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28 th Ward

Adopted this the 12th day of December, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen