

RESOLUTION NUMBER 191

Charles Reginald Gay, Sr.

WHEREAS, we pause in our deliberations to note the untimely passing of longtime St. Louis resident, Charles Reginald Gay, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Charles Reginald Gay, Sr., was born January 2, 1937, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was the eldest of two children born to the late Charles Reginald Gay, Sr. and Annette (Davenport) Gay. Charles also had six siblings in Chicago, Illinois; two sisters, Phyllis Birden, Charlene Gay and four brothers, Charles Gay, Reginald Gay, Ralph Gay, and Richard Gay who preceded him in death. Charles Reginald Gay, Jr. departed this life on December 3, 2012, at home in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Charles excelled in his profession as a firefighter for the City of Saint Louis. He was a charter member of the Firefighters Institute for Racial Equality better known as F.I.R.E. and dedicated a great deal of time ensuring that African American firefighters received equal and fair treatment. He retired from the fire department after 27 years of dedicated service. Additionally, he served as an avid community leader and political activist. He was founder and executive board member of the Northside Neighborhood Action Association. Charles truly cared about his neighborhood and community and worked very hard to get others involved in keeping the neighborhood safe. Later in life, he became a member of the Goshen's Oaks Social Club; and

WHEREAS, Charles loved his family, sports, old western movies, playing poker with his longtime buddies and traveling the world with family and friends. Under the leadership of Reverend Aubrey Jones, Pastor of North Park United Methodist Church, Charles was dedicated to the needs of the church and the community. In recent years, he adopted Joel Osteen as his global pastor and looked forward to watching his weekly broadcast; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, he met the love of his life, Verna Cunningham who later became his wife. From this union and a previous marriage, two families were blended; and

WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his memory; his lovely wife, Verna Cunningham-Gay, who cared for him during his illness; one brother, William Edwin Gay, of St. Louis; two sisters, Phyllis Birden and Charlene Gay, of Chicago; eight children, Charles (Reggie) Gay, III (Adrienne), Darren Cunningham, Sr., Monica Cunningham, Anthony Gray (Lei Lani), Rodrick Cunningham, Sr., Dedra Cunningham Norde', Gregory Gay, Sr. (Crystal), Stacey Cunningham Bland (Roderick), of Peoria, Illinois; and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins, sister-in-laws, brother-in-laws, other relatives and many great friends. Also special thanks to Nelson Crenshaw, Robert (Bob) Anderson, James Cooper and Mattie Moore.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to remember the many contributions of Charles Reginald Gay, Sr. to the citizens of the City of St. Louis and we join with his many friends in expressing our sorrow at his passing, 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 memorial copy for presentation to the Gay family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 6th day of December, 2012 by:

Honorable Chris Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Adopted this the 6th day of December, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen