

RESOLUTION NUMBER 206
Alderwoman April Ford-Griffin

WHEREAS, Fifth Ward Alderwoman, the Honorable April Ford-Griffin, will be departing her Aldermanic Office and taking a position as the Director of St. Louis' Civil Rights Enforcement Agency; and

WHEREAS, first elected in 1997 at the age of 27, 5th Ward Alderwoman April Ford-Griffin has served in several critical capacities while at the Board of Aldermen including serving as; chairperson of the Neighborhood Development Committee and Ways and Means Committee, vice-chair of the Streets, Traffic and Refuse Committee and a member of Housing, Urban Development and Zoning, Legislation, Neighborhood Development and Personnel and Administration and Public Safety Committees. Alderwoman Ford-Griffin has also served as chairman of the African American Aldermanic Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Alderwoman Ford-Griffin also is a former commissioner of the St. Louis Airport and a former member of the Governor's Lead Prevention Board; and

WHEREAS, Alderwoman Ford-Griffin is also involved in political advocacy in that she serves as a member of the 5th Ward Regular Democratic Organization, served as an at-large delegate representing the State of Missouri in the 2000 Presidential Convention and also served as the Chairman of the 5th Ward get-out-the-vote in 2000. Alderwoman Ford-Griffin served as campaign manager for Lewis Reed in his successful bid to become the first African-American to be elected president of the Board of Aldermen. Alderwoman Ford-Griffin was also selected as a state delegate to participate in the historic nomination of President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, during Ford-Griffin's tenure in office as a full-time Alderman, the Fifth Ward has undertaken over \$850,000,000.00 worth of new residential, commercial, institutional and infrastructure development. Her leadership has lead to the construction and/or renovation of over 1,750 units of quality, mixed-income housing. She was also recently very instrumental in assisting the St. Louis Housing Authority and minority developer KAI in securing a \$20,000,000.00 HOPE VI grant which is being used to transform the dilapidated Cochran Gardens public housing development into Cambridge Heights; a viable, attractive, mixed income community. She has also facilitated the arrival of numerous new businesses in the 5th Ward including Ambassador Steel, Days Inn Hotel, Crown Mart, Rosalita's Cantina and the Jive and Wale Piano Bar. Ford-Griffin has also been celebrated for her commitment to the inclusion of minority developers and contractors in the revitalization of the 5th Ward. To date, minority developers have spearheaded over \$35,000,000.00 worth of new development activities in her Ward.; and

WHEREAS, Alderwoman Ford-Griffin has developed a keen sense of awareness of the effectiveness of non-profit organizations operating in the City of St. Louis. To date she has provided legislative and/or financial support to organizations such as the St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation, Pruitt Igoe, Inc., Better Family Life, Places for People, Doorways, Youth and Family Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, Cahill House Tenant Affairs Board, Haven of Grace, 100 Black Men, Grace Hill, Habitat for Humanity-St. Louis, North Grand Neighborhood Services, Innovative Concepts Academy, Monsanto Family YMCA, Employment Connection, Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, Gateway 180 Homelessness Reversed, Community Renewal and Development, CHIPS, Vashon/Jeff-Vander-Lou Initiative and COVAM in their efforts to serve the residents of the 5th Ward. She has also received numerous awards for her outstanding leadership from such organizations as; Outstanding Women in Leadership, Human Development Corporation, Metro Sentinel Journal, St. Louis Community Empowerment Foundation and Community Health in Partnership Services; and

WHEREAS, Alderwoman Ford-Griffin comes from a family with a long history of elected public service. Her parents Louis and Ida Ford served for over thirty years in public office and her brother Anthony is a former state representative. Alderwoman Ford-Griffin a dedicated mother of three children is also a member of the Rhema Baptist Assembly church, a member of the Order of Eastern Star and a member of the Daughter of Isis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to express our sincere appreciation to Alderwoman April Ford-Griffin for her many contributions to this Board, the residents of the Fifth Ward, and the entire City of St. Louis and we further wish her success in all of her future endeavors, and we direct the Clerk of his 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 distinguished honoree.

Introduced on the 30th day of September, 2011 by:

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward
Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward
Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward
Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward
Honorable Stephen J. Conway, Alderman 8th Ward
Honorable Kenneth A. Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward

Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward
Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward
Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward
Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward
Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward
Honorable Thomas Villa, Alderman 11th Ward
Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward
Honorable Alfred Wessels, Jr., Alderman 13th Ward
Honorable Carol Howard, Alderwoman 14th Ward

Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
Honorable Scott Ogilvie, Alderman 24th Ward
Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward
Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward
Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 30th day of September, 2011 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen