

## **RESOLUTION NUMBER 217**

### **Francis G. Slay**

**WHEREAS**, Francis Gerard Slay is the 45th Mayor of the City of St. Louis; he assumed office on April 17, 2001, and is the longest serving Mayor in St. Louis history, elected to office four consecutive times; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Slay was born in St. Louis, Missouri on March 18, 1955, the second of 11 children, to Francis R. and Anna May Slay; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Slay graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1973; he received a degree in political science from Quincy College, where he excelled at his other passion, soccer; he received a law degree from St. Louis University School of Law; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduating from law school, Mayor Slay served as a law clerk for Judge Paul J. Simon of the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District; in 1981, he joined the law firm of Guilfoil, Petzall, and Shoemake, where he specialized in business law and commercial litigation; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Slay was elected to the St. Louis Board of Aldermen in 1985, representing the 23rd ward for 10 years; in 1995, he was elected President of the Board of Aldermen, and served in that position until 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, when Mayor Slay first decided to run for mayor, he announced his first mayoral campaign in the South St. Louis backyard on Scanlan Avenue where he grew up; and

**WHEREAS**, during his first mayoral term beginning in 2001, Mayor Slay oversaw significant residential redevelopment within the city, including the redevelopment of the Washington Avenue Loft District; he then negotiated the construction of the new St. Louis Cardinals baseball stadium in downtown St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Slay administration and its public and private partners have received national and international recognition for a St. Louis renaissance; in May 2007, Downtown St. Louis's revitalization was the subject of a Preserve American Presidential Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Slay has lead St. Louis to become a more progressive city by implementing a citywide recycling program, a smoking ban, and extended workforce diversity goals; St. Louis is now ranked as a top LGBT-friendly community; the City has also put in place a Housing First plan that has resulted in a reduction in the number of people who are homeless; Mayor Slay's program to reduce children's exposure to dangerous lead paint has won national acclaim; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 31, 2013, Mayor Slay signed the executive order giving the City of St. Louis local control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for the first time in 152 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Slay continues to force the issue of improving public education in St. Louis; he implemented the opening of charter schools in St. Louis, more than 30 of which already have opened; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Slay led the city's successful bid to retain the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and its 3,100 employees; the NGA will build a \$1.75 billion campus on the Near North Side; the City competed for and won a \$30 million federal Choice Neighborhood grant to help transform the Near North Side; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Slay and his wife, Kim, have two children, Francis, Jr. and Katherine.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to thank Francis G. Slay for his outstanding service to the City of St. Louis, and we wish him well in his future endeavors. 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 3rd day of February, 2017, by:

**The Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward**

Adopted the 3rd day of February, 2017, as attested by:

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Timothy G. O'Connell  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen