

Resolution No. 223
Walk and Bicycle to School Day

WHEREAS, the National Safe Routes to School Partnership, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Missouri Bicycle & Pedestrian Federation, the Missouri Safe Routes to School Network, Trailnet and over 75 organizations and agencies across the state affiliated with the network are working together to promote Walk to School Day in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of our children is of highest concern to the citizens of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems among children and being able to walk or bicycle to school offers an opportunity to build activity into daily routine; and

WHEREAS, driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution, creating over 25% of community traffic at the beginning and end of each school day; and

WHEREAS, an important role for parents and caregivers is to teach children about pedestrian safety and become aware of the difficulties and dangers that children face on their trip to school each day and the health and environmental risks related to physical inactivity and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, community members and leaders should make a plan to make immediate changes to enable Missouri's children to safely walk and bicycle in our communities; and

WHEREAS, children, parents and community leaders around the world are joining together to walk to school and evaluate walking and bicycling conditions in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Walk and Bicycle to School Month in October and Walk and Bicycle to School Week the first week in October have proven to be helpful in encouraging children to safely walk and bicycle to school and in creating and promoting local Safe Route to Schools programs across the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the state of Missouri has passed and the Governor of Missouri has signed an act setting apart October as Walk and Bicycle to School Month and the first Wednesday of October as Walk and Bicycle to School Day, "to improve the safety of students walking and bicycling to school, encourage more children to safely walk and bicycle to school, and promote the benefits of walking and cycling to school, including physical activity and better student health and physical fitness, improved academics, reduced congestion and pollution, and more livable communities."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the month of October 2011 as Walk and Bicycle to School Month, and the first Wednesday of October as Walk and Bicycle to School Day urge all students, parents, teachers, administrators, schools, and school districts to participate in these events and direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this resolution to the end that it may be presented to The Saint Louis Board of Education under the direction of Dr. Kevin Adams at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on the 7th day of October, 2011 by:

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

Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward

Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Adopted this the 7th day of October, 2011 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen