

RESOLUTION NUMBER 226
Reverend Andrew J. Latchison, Jr.

WHEREAS, Pastor A. J. Latchison, Jr. was born into a God-fearing home to the union of the late Rev. Andrew J. Latchison, Sr. and Missionary Lola Latchison. He is the product of a very spiritual upbringing and was trained and taught well, both religiously and philosophically. His parents prayed and sought the Lord daily to raise Andrew, his four sisters (Betty, Deborah, Ruth and Martha), and his two brothers (Mark and Samson). Pastor Latchison is married to the vivacious Ms. Hope E. (Wendi), of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and they are the proud parents of three children; Diamond, Jade, and Ahmad Jordan; and

WHEREAS, his foundation and roots lie deeply in the Christ Southern Mission Baptist Church under the inspirational leadership of the late, great Rev. Herman Gore, Sr., and co-pastored by his son, The Reverend Herman Gore, Jr. His spiritual nurturing and development continued during his teen and young adult years at the Kennerly Temple C.O.G.I.C. under the watchful guidance of the Honorable Bishop R.J. Ward. Andrew was ordained an elder in May of 1974 within the Churches of God in Christ (headquartered in Memphis, Tenn.), which was then overseen by the late Bishop J.O. Patterson. Bishop Ward presented Andrew with many opportunities to minister in convocations, revivals, and conventions in St. Louis and around the country; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Soldan High School in 1974, he organized The Gospel Harmonizers at the Harris Stowe Teacher's College where he was enrolled. The choir was comprised of more than fifty young people whose sole purpose was to spread the Good News to prisoners, the down-trodden, the unsaved and the homeless. This choir made their first recording in 1979 after having sung with such notables as the late Rev. James Cleveland, Evangelist Shirley Caesar, Inez Andrews, Andrae Crouch, Rev. Richard "Mr. Clean" White, Walter and Edwins Hawkins, and many more; and

WHEREAS, He was also united in Holy Matrimony in 1974 to the late Dorcas LaGrone, who throughout his ministry and until the time of her death, was forever by his side. To this blessed union were born three children; Eschele, Nakita, and Andrew III; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Latchison became a visiting chaplain at the St. Louis County Correctional Facility at Gumbo in 1975. Andrew received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from the Harris-Stowe Teachers' College. In 1979, Rev Latchison joined with the ministry of the New Sunnyside M.B. Church under the very, capable leadership of Pastor Donald Hunter. He took Andrew under his wings and was instrumental in shaping and developing him for great ministry ordaining him within the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., in 1980. He has pastored First Baptist Church, Quincy, Illinois; Bethel Baptist Church, Rockford, Illinois; Christ Tabernacle Baptist Church, Rockford, Illinois; Oak Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO and currently serves as founding pastor of the Well Spring of Life International Ministries.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Reverend Andrew J. Latchison, Jr. for his many accomplishments and we wish him peace and happiness in his 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 14th day of October, 2011 by:

Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Adopted this 14th day of October, 2011 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen