

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 242**

**Dianne White**

**WHEREAS**, on Sunday February 24, 2013, in observance of Black History Month and the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Charles Sumner High School Alumni Association will host their 10th Annual Membership Round-Up. The event will recognize and honor the achievements of some of the City of St. Louis' African American "Firsts in Their Field" in various political and social positions/roles of distinction; and

**WHEREAS**, Dianne White's career is a study in firsts: she was one of the first African-American students at the University of Missouri. Before the age of 21, she was the first black model for a major St. Louis department store, working for both Stix, Baer & Fuller and Saks Fifth Avenue. Only a few years later, she became the first full-time African-American weathercaster in the nation, at what was then KSD-TV. From the weather map to the anchor desk to live news, reporting from the field, there were few positions she didn't try during her 26-year television stint; and

**WHEREAS**, she has also enjoyed a semiprofessional singing career with the Russ David Orchestra, helped raise bonds to build the Arch and opened 11 Girls Clubs; and

**WHEREAS**, White is a 1956 graduate of Sumner High School. Her first foray onto the stage came at the suggestion of her high school choir teacher, who urged her to audition as a singer with the renowned Russ David Orchestra. She was working as a city manager for Avon, a man named Harold called to make an appointment. When she showed up for what she thought was a sales call, she found out that her meeting was with Harold Grams, the general manager of KSD-TV and radio; and

**WHEREAS**, her resume is packed with awards and accolades, complete with kudos from Mayor Alfonso Cervantes, the St. Louis Black Journalists Hall of Fame, the Jewish Community Association and the American Cancer Society.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Dianne White and we wish her continued success, achievement and accomplishment 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 8th day of February, 2013 by:

**Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward**

Adopted this 8th day of February, 2013 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen