

RESOLUTION NUMBER 343

Mary Hayes

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Mary Hayes will be receiving an award for from Grace Hill and her name will be placed on the Hall of Fame of the Grace Hill Women’s Business Center; and

WHEREAS, Mary Hayes developed a love of cooking when she was very young and living in the Pruitt-Igoe Housing Project. She was not allowed to go outside while her mother was at work so she experimented in the kitchen. She read recipes and baked cookies and cakes while she waited indoors. Because she was afraid her mother might not be happy about her helping herself to the ingredients, she gave all the evidence away to the neighborhood kids; and

WHEREAS, Mary still loves cooking. “When I went to work for an engineering firm, I got in the habit of doing a new recipe every week for them to try and let me know whether or not they liked it.” She worked with this firm for 13 years and used her passion for cooking as a creative outlet. “They seemed to like everything, and it was therapy for me,” she said; and

WHEREAS, Mary’s business began simply by helping out the staff at the engineering firm. They would ask her to prepare one of her dishes for their special occasions. Although she had been ‘testing’ her recipes, Mary wanted to do this right so she went to the library and found books on the catering business. This research on catering lead her to the Grace Hill Women’s Business Center to learn business skills; and

WHEREAS, later Mary began managing events for the Urban League and started catering on the side. She gradually bought basic equipment and saving for larger catering items. Then, two-and-a-half years ago when she retired, Mary took the business development classes at the Women’s Business Center again and went into her own business; and

WHEREAS, “My cooking was great, but I needed instruction on pricing, taxes, regulations and things like that,” she said. By planning her purchases and saving for the major equipment, she has managed to start her business without a loan. In the beginning, a client loaned her the use of a kitchen, but now she has rented her own building for the business. Mary recommends that anyone considering starting a business should do their homework and know all they can about the business. Although her top suggestion for entrepreneurs is to, “do what you love. Then you will be happy in your work and that is most important.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Mary Hayes for her outstanding achievement 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 12th day of March, 2010 by:

Honorable April Ford-Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Adopted this the 12th day of March, 2010 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen