

RESOLUTION NUMBER 347

Melanie Austin

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Melanie Austin 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, Melanie Austin, a St. Louis native and fashion designer, is married and a mother. She has been in the fashion world since she was a young child. As a budding designer, Melanie participated in her first fashion show while at University City High School to show the community her talent; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Austin attended Florissant Valley Community College and Forest Park Community College, then took classes at Washington University in St. Louis. After leaving school, the designer gained national exposure for her business through fashion shows in New York, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere. As the economy declined, her business began to shift to a more local focus; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010 Melanie Austin realized her business could use a jump-start and she began taking classes at the Grace Hill Women’s Business Center. In addition to the business development classes with Arthur Porter, she is also taking advantage of the mentoring services at the Women’s Business Center; and

WHEREAS, “My advice to anyone starting a business--and I have already given it to a relative-- is to first go to the classes at the Grace Hill Women’s Business Center, before you start, to get a plan that will guide you as you go along. You will form an ‘association tree’ there that will help in getting started as you go along,” she concludes; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Austin is currently working on a local “Fashion Week” for the fall with her own fashion show and a teach-out for fashion. Her daughters are also getting in on fashion by walking the runways of her show.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Melanie Austin 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