

Resolution Number 67
RHONDA HAMM-NIEBRUEGGE

WHEREAS, on Good Friday, April 22, 2011, at about 8:10 p.m. a category EF-3 (up to 165 mph winds) tornado ripped through Lambert - St. Louis International Airport as well as the surrounding community of Bridgeton, which was walloped with an EF-4 tornado, leaving in its wake extreme devastation and an airport with indescribable damage, including blown out windows in Terminal #1, roof damage to Concourse C, and broken glass everywhere; and

WHEREAS, fortunately no life was lost, but there was devastating property damage; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the maelstrom there are many accounts of heroism and good neighborliness, including the joint actions of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County, Mr. Richard Bradley (President of the Board of Public Service), and the team effort of all staff and volunteers at the airport; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of all of this stormy tumult, Ms. RHONDA HAMM-NIEBRUEGGE, stood tall as the Director of our fine airport, fielding dozens of questions and leading a team that found a way to reopen the airport to arriving flights within 24 hours, field departing flights within 36 hours and return to almost normal service within 92 hours; and

WHEREAS, if things had turned out less satisfactorily, you can bet that St. Louis would still be making news headlines for its crippled airport, but instead our front door to the world and tourist industry, while still scarred from the trauma of Good Friday's twister, has a very visible "welcome mat" out once again, thanks to the team effort of Mayor Francis G. Slay, County Executive Charles Dooley, Richard Bradley, Director of the Board of Public Service, the legions of airport workers and volunteers, and the very capable leadership of the St. Louis – Lambert International Airport Director, RHONDA HAMM-NIEBRUEGGE; and

WHEREAS, perhaps prophetically, RHONDA HAMM-NIEBRUEGGE, was quoted as the Managing Director of the then St. Louis hub for American Airlines in a July 26, 2004, St. Louis Post Dispatch article as saying: "The worst day out here is sometimes my best day."

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that we pause in our deliberations to thank God that there was no loss of life in this devastating tornado. We pray for those who are homeless and suffering from this horrific storm. We recognize and applaud the heroic acts of all the team who worked mightily to recover from the damage wrought, including the devastation at Lambert – St. Louis International Airport. We especially, note and appreciate the confident and competent leadership exhibited by Director, RHONDA HAMM-NIEBRUEGGE. We further direct the Clerk of this Board of Aldermen to spread this Resolution across the Minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it might be presented to the honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on the 20th day of May, 2011 by:

Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward

Honorable Terry Kennedy Alderman 18th Ward

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President

Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward

Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward

Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward

Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Honorable April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward

Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward

Honorable Stephen J. Conway, Alderman 8th Ward

Honorable Kenneth A. Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward

Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward

Honorable Thomas Villa, Alderman 11th Ward

Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward

Honorable Alfred Wessels, Jr., Alderman 13th Ward

Honorable Carol Howard, Alderwoman 14th Ward

Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward

Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward

Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward

Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward

Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward

Honorable Scott Ogilvie, Alderman 24th Ward

Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward

Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward

Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 20th day of May, as attested by:

David W. Sweeney

Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed

President, Board of Aldermen