

Resolution No. 39
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

WHEREAS, since its early beginnings, the City of St. Louis has been a city of significant ethnic, gender, racial and cultural diversity and like the nation has struggled over the years to overcome discrimination and disenfranchisement while attempting to shape a civic personality truly centered and based in democracy; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has long recognized that citizen diversity is a most valuable asset and consistently strives to increase diversity among its workforce and contractors to accurately reflect the composition of the City; and

WHEREAS, over the years this effort toward diversity, parity and inclusion has resulted in significant local and national legislation and court decisions aimed at reflecting the growing national and local consciousness that inclusion and equity are essential components of democracy and is ultimately beneficial to all, encourages better community interaction, cooperation, tolerance and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Grutter v. Bollinger, 539 U.S. 306 (2003), that Affirmative Action is necessary to achieve true democracy in our increasingly diverse and multicultural nation; and

WHEREAS, California businessman Ward Connerly has recently launched what many believe to be a misleading and deceptive campaign entitled “Missouri’s Civil Rights Initiative” that would amend Missouri’s Constitution crippling Affirmative Action; eliminate the City’s ability to consider racial and gender disparities in the areas of law enforcement, personnel hiring and university admissions; reverse many of the current advancements made in St. Louis and Missouri toward gender and race equality; and irreparably harm the ability of all Missouri residents to enjoy an equal opportunity in healthcare, education and employment; and

WHEREAS, numerous civic organizations, labor unions, business associations, educational institutions, religious groups, ethnic groups and women’s organizations oppose the adoption of this amendment; and

WHEREAS, this Board also recognizes the laudable efforts of The Missouri Annual conference of the AME Zion Church, SEIU Local 2000, and MOSES for their efforts in educating the community about this issue and opposing the “Ward Connerly amendment”; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Alderman recognizes the need for Affirmative Action toward making St. Louis a better place to work and live for its diverse citizenry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Louis Board of Aldermen reaffirms its support for diversity and affirmative action programs and opposes the deceptive and divisive “Missouri Civil Rights Initiative” and the constitutional amendment it proposes, as it fails to advance the civil rights of St. Louis City citizens and runs contrary to the promotion and continuance of diversity, parity and progress in the City of St. Louis and directs the Clerk of this Board prepare a copy of this resolution so that it may be presented to those deemed appropriate by its sponsor.

Introduced on the 2nd day of May, 2008 by:

Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen
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 Stephen Gregali, Alderman 14th Ward
Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward
Honorable Bennice Jones-King, Alderwoman 21st Ward
Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
Honorable William Waterhouse, Alderman 24th Ward
Honorable Dorothy Kirner, Alderwoman 25th Ward
Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Adopted this the 2nd day of May, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen