

RESOLUTION NO. 33

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis and surrounding communities have been hit by storms of late causing tens of thousands of homes, businesses and institutions to be left without electric power for hours at a time and sometimes days; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that Ameren U. E. put crews into the field and to their credit worked around the clock to restore power. Thousands upon thousands of food supplies, at both commercial locations and at private homes, were lost causing much concern and loss to those without power and those whose power could not be restored timely; and

WHEREAS, Ameren acquired the Union Electric Company some time ago, and since said acquisition, regular tree trimming formerly performed by the Union Electric Company seemed to decline; over the ensuing years area trees to grow out to the extent that the storm caused many branches to break and pull down power lines causing massive outages; and

WHEREAS, these downed trees, broken limbs and tree branches were all over the region. In some areas these downed trees, limbs and branches are still on the City streets, alleys, vacant lots and yards where homeowners are unable to do anything to remove them; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to lessen the effect of future storms that knock out power, Ameren U.E. hired private contractors to trim trees that had the potential to knock out power if another storm was to come; and

WHEREAS, creating further cause for concern to the City of St. Louis and the Board of Aldermen, contractors hired by Ameren did trim trees but regrettably left the branches and limbs on vacant lots, and in alleys behind private homes and L.R.A. properties without any clear plan or method to dispose of them; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis spends in the neighborhood of 4.5 million dollars yearly cleaning up illegal dump sites. These tree branches, limbs, and downed trees have stretched City resources to the point that a solution to the remaining tree clutter must be found. It is not fair or equitable for Ameren U.E. to expect homeowners where tree debris has been dumped to dispose of the branches and limbs at their expense, or at the City's expense, and

WHEREAS, the City Forestry Department has been told that they, and/or the homeowners are responsible for the clean-up. It is clear that no plan of action was agreed upon because our neighborhoods still have storm debris at a level that is unacceptable.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS to call upon its public utilities committee and call for hearing to understand and make public who developed this plan of action, if any which has failed the City and its residents, and further to develop a plan to avoid allowing the ravages of storms to deface our communities and create hardships for the City and its residents. This Resolution empowers the committee to call for the appearance of witnesses and request documents, and if needed subpoena and review agreements and/or contracts made regarding storm clean-up in St. Louis City and also, if possible, help to develop plans and procedures along with time tables to return our City to normalcy after natural disasters as expeditiously as possible.

Introduced on the th day of May by:

Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr. Alderman 3rd Ward

Adopted this the th day of May 2007 as attested: