

**Resolution Number 101**  
Ernestine F. Jones-Gordon

**WHEREAS**, Ernestine F. Jones-Gordon was born to Deacon Ernest and Deaconess Helen Jones in St. Louis on August 5, 1949. Ernestine was a happy child and soon became a child musical prodigy; singing, playing, and directing choirs and groups. At the age of 9, she became a member of the Jones Singers and at the age of 12 she played for the Wilson Singers under the direction of Mr. LeRoy Wilson of Wilson Funeral Home. Ernestine was educated in the St. Louis Public Schools system, she attended Marquette Elementary School and Vashon High School; and

**WHEREAS**, during her teen years, she became a high achieving student at Vashon High School and was involved in many school activities including the concert choir, majorettes, and student government. Her most memorable experiences included performances with Dr. Helen Louise Graves and the Cosmopolitan Singers. She later attended Fontbonne University where she majored in vocal performance; and

**WHEREAS**, as Ernestine developed into a beautiful young woman, she later married and had two beautiful children, Kristy and Neil, II. Her musical gifts allowed her to travel near and far performing in musicals, folk operas and sacred concerts from New York to California. She has shared the stage with such gospel greats as Evangelist Shirley Caesar, James Cleveland and many others. Her talent soon landed her on Broadway in the 1970's. Ernestine starred as Serena in the Opera Porgy and Bess at Eastman Theater under the direction of Mr. Archie Savage. Her road to fame soon took a turn, as leaving her new family to pursue her dream was too much for her to bear. This would be the beginning of many professional sacrifices that she would make for the love of her family; and

**WHEREAS**, Ernestine's love of music could not be contained; she decided to become an entrepreneur and an elementary music teacher which allowed her to share her musical gifts and passion for music with others. She opened Berry, Jones, and Foster music studio, in memory of her maternal and paternal grandparents, where she taught private piano and voice for nearly 20 years. She also was a music teacher at Bishop Healy School and Shepherd Accelerated School for a total of 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ernestine is still using her gifts to bless others. She serves as the children's choir pianist and director of the dance ministry at Central Baptist Church, her church of 60 years. Over the years, Ernestine has been a part of various ministries of the church including the Treblettes (affectionately called The "Trouble" Lettes), under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Maddox Huntley; The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Mildred Bailey; Central Baptist Church Inspirational Choir, which she organized and directed and was the Assistant Minister of Music. Ernestine also shared her musical gifts with many churches and community choirs including; St. Nicholas Catholic Church Children's Choir and Wayman AME; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to wish Ernestine F. Jones-Gordon a happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday 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 memorial copy for presentation to the Jones family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009 by:

**Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Adopted this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen