

RESOLUTION NUMBER 12

The St. Louis Community Education Program

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Community Education Program is a manifestation of a unique partnership between the St. Louis Public School District, St. Louis City Government, and the broader St. Louis community that has lasted for forty years. It reflects a long standing agreement that between them there would be the use of school facilities for the delivery of neighborhood determined programs and services designed to enhance the quality of life for neighborhood residents; and

WHEREAS, forty years later, tens of thousands of persons of all ages have been served, civic leaders have emerged from the ranks of community councils, and large numbers of service providers have found neighborhood platforms for service delivery through strong long standing relationships; and

WHEREAS, the seeds for the community education program were planted in 1966 in response to what was perceived to be an expanding gap between the public schools and the broader community. To address the situation, City Fathers commissioned a blue ribbon delegation of key educational, civic and business leaders to travel around the country to learn how other communities, with demographics similar to St. Louis, were addressing the issue; and

WHEREAS, the delegation eventually found itself in Flint, Michigan, the birthplace of modern day community education. It was there that the Flint School District, the community, and city government, aided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, joined in a partnership to respond to the educational, cultural, social, and developmental needs of Flint youth and adults. Through this innovative partnership, Flint enjoyed broad support for the school district and school councils and the schools became gathering places where residents could discuss neighborhood issues, develop solutions, and the schools became focal points where after school staff helped citizens enhance their quality of life pursuits through programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis delegation returned home and committed itself to the development of the community education concept in St. Louis. The first designated community school opened in 1968 and, as they say, the rest is history; and

WHEREAS, to this day, the partnership continues and the citizens of St. Louis continue to be the beneficiaries. While the program has undergone several structural changes through the years, there has never been any departure from its original goals and tenets. The primary goals continue to be the engagement of the community in providing support to students in their academic pursuits, and the provision of opportunities and processes designed to facilitate parents and other community members being involved in finding solutions to concerns that impact their quality of life, particular those that are educationally focused. These goals have guided the actions of program leaders in the past and are envisioned to be the beacon that will guide them in the future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the St. Louis Community Education Program for its many accomplishments and we wish them continued success, achievement and accomplishment 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 25th day of April, 2008 by:

Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderman 19th Ward
Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward

Adopted this the 25th day of April, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen