

RESOLUTION NUMBER 124
Sudan Illustrators, Inc.

WHEREAS, for 145 years, Juneteenth National Freedom Day continues to be the most recognized African-American holiday observance in the United States also known as Juneteenth, "Emancipation Day", "Emancipation Celebration", "Freedom Day", "Jun-Jun", "Juneteenth Independence Day" and "Juneteenth African American Freedom Days;" and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the survival, due to the strength and determination, of African-Americans who were brought to this country stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the "Middle Passage"; and

WHEREAS, in conservative estimates approximately eleven and one-half million African-Americans survived the voyage to the New World, known historically as slavery or that "peculiar institution", with the number of African-Americans dying from this voyage being far greater, only to be subjected to inhuman conditions for more than 200 years after arrival in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth receives its name from the spontaneous celebrations that broke out during various days in June of 1865, after the ending of the Civil War in April of 1865, that African Americans in Texas received the notification of their freedom and has been recently "*officially recognized*" as Juneteenth Independence Day in America by the President and Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the State of Missouri joined 35 other states in a successful effort to officially recognize "Juneteenth" as a state observance to be known as the "Independence Day Observance", "Freedom Day" or "Juneteenth Independence Day" for Americans of African descent; and others who can appreciate the accomplishments that African Americans have made in their pursuit of true and meaningful freedom; and

WHEREAS, today Juneteenth continues with various cultural performances, games, food, music and fun activities during the month of June but particularly during the various days of June that fall within the "teens" in honor of the first celebrations that broke in 1865 and to remind everyone that freedom must be maintained or all will suffer; and

WHEREAS, Sudan Illustrators, Inc., was among the first, if not the first organization, to begin celebrating the holiday of Juneteenth in St. Louis in 1990 by hosting programs held in conjunction with the Progressive Emporium Bookstore and have continued the tradition for many years including programs and activities for 2010.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we congratulate Sudan Illustrators, Inc., for its fine work of continuing a great tradition of Celebrating Freedom and by adoption of this resolution joins in the festivities 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 for presentation to the honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 18th day of June, 2010 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this the 18th day of June, 2010 as attested:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen