

RESOLUTION NUMBER 150
“Spoken Word Grooves”

WHEREAS, since 2000, Friday night poetry performances by Saint Louis poets at Legacy Books and Café evolved into “Spoken Word Grooves,” as a weekly event; and

WHEREAS, Saint Louis, Missouri’s “Spoken Word Grooves” established itself as a premier poetry event which nurtured artist creativity, and expression while supporting a vision based on strong community artistic support, and was the first public performance stage for many well-known Saint Louis poets who have since gone on tour, become authors, recording artists and teachers; and

WHEREAS, “Spoken Word Grooves” carved its own niche on the national and international poetry scene, and has hosted poets such as Jessica C. Moore, Last Poets, Antonio Fargus, Fred Hampton, Jr. and other contemporary poetic artists who confirm “Spoken Word Grooves” integral role in supporting the creative arts; and

WHEREAS, David A.N. Jackson, Floyd Boykin, Jr., Tracy Mitchell, Marcus Leonard, and Rodney Thomas formed the *Band with NO Name* at “Spoken Word Grooves,” and Legacy Books and Café was awarded Best of St. Louis 2001 Critic Pick “Best Open Mic Poetry” by the Riverfront Times newspaper; and

WHEREAS, with over 450 performances and a nine-year run, “Spoken Word Grooves” convened its last regular Friday night event on May 8, 2009, however, the “Spoken Word Grooves Reunion” continued the poetic experience by celebrating a return of the SWG event with performances by 14 poets from New Orleans, Los Angeles, Arkansas, New Jersey, Memphis, Tennessee, Indiana, Atlanta and Chicago; and

WHEREAS, members of the “Spoken Word Grooves” Family has given their talent, time, heart and artistic soul to fully express the creative spirit of the City of Saint Louis, and its surrounding municipalities to the country, and to the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, “Spoken Word Grooves” and its ‘Spoken Word Grooves Reunion’ has made a significant impact in Saint Louis poetry and cultural arts.

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 many achievements and accomplishments of “Spoken Word Grooves” and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread 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 30th day of July, 2010 by:

Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward

Adopted this the 30th day of July, 2010 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen