

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 184**  
The St. Louis Gospel Choral Union, Inc.

**WHEREAS**, we have been apprised that the St. Louis Gospel Choral Union, Inc. is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year of service; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Louis Gospel Choral Union, Inc. was founded in 1933. The first meeting was held at Calvary Baptist Church. The group invited Professor Thomas A. Dorsey to come to St. Louis to organize the group to become a part of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. Mother Willie Mae Ford Smith became the contact person because her travels afforded her the opportunity to cross paths with Professor Dorsey and to learn about this newly formed organization of gospel choirs and musicians. She shared her talents and organized the National Soloists Bureau; and

**WHEREAS**, the first officers of the St. Louis Gospel Choral Union were Mr. Gus A. Evans, President; Mr. I. J. Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Mrs. Minnie Lewis, Treasurer; and Mrs. Lena Marshbank, Musician. Other presidents have been Mr. Theodore Brown, Madame Fannie Foster, Mrs. Emma Stewart, Mrs. Cassie Wright, Mr. Quincy Fielding, Sr., and presently, Mrs. Sylvia Wright-Quigless; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Louis Gospel Choral Union is comprised of the Parent Body, Alumni Chorale, Youth and Young Adults, Pre-Teens, Soloists Bureau, Ushers, and Health Unit. Each department sponsors different activities that serve the community. Then they all come together for their annual Music in The Air Concert, Calendar Fiesta, and Local Convention.; and

**WHEREAS**, they will once again return to Calvary Baptist Church to celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> year of service, their "Diamond Celebration." Their Consecration Service will be on Sunday, October 19, 2008 and their Musical on Sunday, October 26, 2008. Then, on Friday, October 24, 2008, they will enjoy an elegant banquet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton, Missouri.

**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 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St. Louis Gospel Choral Union, Inc. and we wish them continued success and achievement 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 17th day of October, 2008 by:

**Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward**

Adopted this the 17th day of October, 2008 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