

RESOLUTION NUMBER 193

Shalon Gates

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at the Hyatt Hotel the Metro Sentinel Journal News will convene its 33rd Annual "Yes I Can" awards banquet; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Michael C. Williams, owner and publisher, the Metro Sentinel Journal News continues to recognize the meaningful contributions of stellar St. Louisans; and

WHEREAS, local leaders have been nominated by their peers and admirers as "Special Achievers" in 2008; and

WHEREAS, these local leaders have established themselves as outstanding professionals in the public, private, non-profit, government and educational sectors; and

WHEREAS, Shalon Gates, a St. Louis native, is a product of St. Louis magnet schools and graduate of Parkway West High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Services from Iowa State University in 2003 when she graduated Suma Cum Laude with Honors and Distinction; and

WHEREAS, Shalon began her career in Detroit, Michigan as an assistant pre-school teacher for Head Start. After her first year, she was promoted to lead teacher and received the Rookie of the Year Award for the most promising new member of the teaching staff; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, she became the program director and designer for the Madison County Urban League's male responsibility program in the Health and Education Department, creating the program's first comprehensive curriculum including unique education and marketing materials. She committed herself to delivering the message of reproductive health and sexual responsibility to thousands of youth during her tenure successfully increasing program participation from 500 students to over 2500 students during her first year alone; and

WHEREAS, she went on to become the City of St. Louis Department of Health's first Health Marketing Administrator in 2007 where she effectively managed the department's first comprehensive marketing campaign creating print ads, radio ads and television commercials, coordinating interviews with media, conducting staff trainings managing the budget and contracts, and working collaboratively with numerous marketing vendors throughout the city including Charter Media, Clear Channel Radio, Radio One, Lamar and Wall Decaux, Inc. Her work as Health Marketing Administrator has made an impression on hundreds of thousands of St. Louisans in greater metro area; and

WHEREAS, Shalon is passionate about youth and has made a concerted effort to positively impact their lives both professionally and personally as a mentor and volunteer for youth programs for the past 10 years. She has served the Ames Public Schools in Ames, Iowa, the Detroit Juvenile Detention Facility in Detroit, Michigan and the American Red Cross and St. Louis Dream Center in St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, she is the eldest daughter of Rawn and Fancheon Ford and sister of Danielle McClendon. Shalon is most devoted to her role as wife of Halbert Gates and mother of Isacc Gates and enjoys spending time with her family.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Shalon Gates for her stellar accomplishments and commitment to making our region a better place to live and work. We direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this resolution to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on the 24th day of October, 2007

Honorable April Ford-Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Adopted this the 24th day of October, 2007 as attested:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

