

RESOLUTION NUMBER 209
Ron Himes

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, Ron Himes is the Founder and Producing Director of the Saint Louis Black Repertory Company and the Henry E. Hampton, Jr. Artist-in-Residence at Washington University. The Black Rep has developed a national reputation for staging quality productions from an African-American perspective. He founded the company in 1976 while still a student at Washington University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. The Black Rep began touring to other college campuses and, in 1981, found a home in the former sanctuary of the Greely Presbyterian Church in north St. Louis City, which the company converted and renamed the 23rd Street Theatre; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, after a multi-million dollar renovation, the company moved into the former First Congregation Church building, located in the heart of the Grand Center arts and education district in midtown, renaming it the Grandel Square Theatre; and

WHEREAS, he has produced and directed more than 200 plays at The Black Rep, including all ten plays written by August Wilson and most recently the outstanding production of *SARAFINA!*. He created and developed original works, The Black Rep's own *Tell Me Something Good*, *Crossin' Over* and *I Remember Harlem I and II*. His acting credits at The Black Rep include roles in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Jitney*, *King Hedley II*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Death and the King's Horseman*, *Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil*, *Sty of the Blind Pig*, *The Meeting*, *When The Chickens Came Home to Roost*, *Boesman and Lena*, *Macbeth*, *Waiting for Godot* and *I'm Not Rappaport*. In 1994, The Black Rep's production of *The Meeting* moved to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and

WHEREAS, Himes national directing credits include work for Clarence Brown Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company; Goldenrod Showboat, Indiana Repertory Theatre; Studio Theatre, Perseverance Theatre, and the Old Creamery Theatre, People's Light and Theatre Company, and the Missouri Repertory Theatre, University of South Carolina, Dillard University, Washington University and University of Illinois at Champaign; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Himes was appointed the first Henry E. Hampton, Jr. Artist-in-Residence at Washington University, a joint appointment of the Performing Arts and African American studies departments. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award from University College at Washington University, St. Louis 2004 Heroes Pierre Laclede Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, The Arts & Education Council in 2001; Creative Artist Award, The Better Family Life in 1997; Woodie Award for Outstanding Direction, the St. Louis Black Repertory Company' and Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1993, and from Washington University in 1997 and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Life and Legacy Award from the National Pan-Hellenic Alumni Council; and

WHEREAS, Himes has served on boards, panels, and advisory councils for a number of arts organizations, including the The Joyce Foundation, The Theodore Ward Playwriting Awards, National Endowment for the Arts; the John F. Kennedy Center; the Arts and Humanities Commission, the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education; the Missouri Arts Council; the Regional Arts Commission; the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis; the Regional Commerce and Growth Association; the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Foundation; and the Midwest African-American Arts Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Ron Himes for his 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

