

RESOLUTION NUMBER 220
St. Louis Police Athletic League (PAL)

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Police Athletic League (PAL) was reorganized in 1996 by several St. Louis Police officers including Lt. Colonel Gregory Hawkins. It has grown substantially in that period of time due to the hard work and dedication of numerous volunteers; and

WHEREAS, PAL is a volunteer based juvenile crime prevention program located in the city of St. Louis and surrounding areas. PAL strives to reduce crime by involving at risk youth in athletic, educational and cultural programs, which PAL operates and provides with the cooperation of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department; and

WHEREAS, PAL's mission is to identify at risk youths between the ages of 5 and 18. They provide a positive and constructive environment through sports for the children to grow and develop. They want to fill playgrounds, not prisons; and

WHEREAS, unlike other children sports programs, PAL has the support and involvement of the St. Louis Police Department. Each and every team they sponsor has a police volunteer involved. Police Officers volunteer their time as coaches, officials and mentors to the children in the program. They believe that if children can grow to respect police officers in a gym or on a ball field, they will respect the officer off the field, as well as respect the laws that the police enforce; and

WHEREAS, PAL currently has over 1000 children between the ages of 6-18 participating in one or more sports. It currently offers teams in the following sports: baseball, basketball, bowling, boxing, soccer, softball, street hockey and tennis; and

WHEREAS, in order to stay eligible for the PAL program, participating children must have the following: satisfactory attendance in school, satisfactory grades in school and progress towards graduation, and no involvement in criminal or delinquent behavior; and

WHEREAS, PAL has literally hundreds of success stories. 75% of all the children involved in PAL will improve their grades and school attendance. The rate of PAL kids involved in any type of crime is extremely low when compared to the area in which PAL sponsors programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize the St. Louis Police Athletic League (PAL) for its steadfast commitment to the youths of the City of St. Louis, 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 copy for presentation, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 24th day of October, 2008 by:

Honorable Bennice Jones King, Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 24th day of October, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen