

Resolution No. 306
Abraham Bolden

WHEREAS, Abraham Bolden was born to Daniel and Ophelia Bolden in East St. Louis, Illinois on January 19, 1935. He attended Lincoln High School and, upon graduation, entered Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. Mr. Bolden graduated *cum laude* from Lincoln University with a B.A. in music composition; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Lincoln University, Mr. Bolden became the first African American detective to be employed by the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. After leaving that position, he served as a State Highway Patrolman in the State of Illinois. Continuing his advancement, he became a member of the United States Secret Service in October of 1960. Mr. Bolden met President John F. Kennedy in Chicago, Illinois and, after a brief conversation with Bolden, President Kennedy was instrumental in making Mr. Bolden the first African American to be assigned to the Secret Service White House Detail in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bolden served in the U.S. Secret Service from 1960 to 1964. He lives in Chicago and is retired after working for thirty five years in the field of quality-control supervision of various machining and metal fabricating companies; and

WHEREAS, he is the author of *The Echo from Dealey Plaza: The true story of the first African American on the White House Secret Service detail and his quest for justice after the assassination of JFK*. For his tireless efforts in the pursuit of justice equity, he has been the recipient of the 2008 Scottish Hugo's Companion Tankard Award for Courage, 2008 African American Arts Alliance Award for Excellence, the 2008 Alpha Phi Alpha Award for Courage. He has also been recognized by the National Urban League as one of American's Outstanding Black Men; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bolden married his long time friend and schoolmate, Barbara L. Hardy, to whom he was married for 49 years prior to her death. To that marriage were born three children, Ahvia Maria, Abraham Jr., and Dr. Daaim Shabazz. He also has two grandchildren, Ismail and Cydni.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to commend Abraham Bolden for his efforts to the United States and St. Louis region and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to include a copy of this Resolution in the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy for presentation at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on February 4th, 2011 by:

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen
Honorable Terry Kennedy, 18th Ward

Adopted February 4th, 2011 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen