

RESOLUTION NUMBER 342

Mr. Bertie Ahern

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Mr. Bertie Ahern is the Guest of Honor for the St. Louis Metropolitan St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Bertie Ahern retired as Taoiseach (Prime Minister) in May, 2008 having enjoyed the unique distinction in modern Irish politics of being the first person in over 60 years to have been elected to that office on three successive occasions (June 1997, June 2002 and May 2007). He continues to serve as a member of the Dail Eireann (Parliament); and

WHEREAS, his achievements as a leader at home and abroad have been recognized internationally. He is one of only five people to enjoy the great distinction of having been invited to address both the Houses of Parliament at Westminster and the Houses of Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, probably the defining moment of his administration and Irish history was the successful negotiation by he and Tony Blair of the Good Friday Agreement between the British and the Irish Governments and the political parties in Northern Ireland in April 1998. After he was re-elected Taoiseach in June 2002 with the Progressive Democrats, Ireland began to enjoy a period of unprecedented economic growth and social change. It was also a period of continuing and intense engagement with the Northern Ireland peace process; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2007 those years of hard work paid a rich dividend when a power sharing administration was established in Northern Ireland led by the First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness. After nine years of unstinting political commitment, this historic event represented the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and a great triumph for Mr. Ahern, Mr. Blair and the leaders of the Northern Ireland parties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ahern is the brother of Noel Ahern, Fianna Fail Dail Deputy for Dublin North West since 1992 and the Guest of Honor for the St. Louis Metropolitan St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2008.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Mr. Bertie Ahern for the honor of being named Guest of Honor for the St. Louis Metropolitan St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2009 and 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 13th day of March, 2009 by:

Honorable Stephen J. Conway Alderman 8th Ward

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward

Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward

Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward

Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Honorable April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward

Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward
Honorable Kenneth Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward
Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward
Honorable Matthew Villa, Alderman 11th Ward
Honorable Fred Heitert, Alderman 12th Ward
Honorable Alfred Wessels, Jr., Alderman 13th Ward
Honorable Stephen Gregali, Alderman 14th Ward
Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward
Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward
Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward
Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
Honorable Kathleen Hanrahan, Alderwoman 23rd Ward
Honorable William Waterhouse, Alderman 24th Ward
Honorable Dorothy Kirner, Alderwoman 25th Ward
Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward
Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 13th day of March, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen