

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 51**

***Dr. Katie Harper Wright***

**WHEREAS**, we have been apprised that the annual *Salute to Women in Leadership* will take place on Friday, May 9 and Dr. Katie Harper Wright will be the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. The luncheon gives recognition to women who excel in their work in a professional, civic, or social capacity in our region; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Katie Harper Wright currently serves as a writer for the St. Louis ARGUS Newspaper in East St. Louis, Ill. She comes to this position with a significant and long-term career in education and special education. Dr. Wright earned her Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Illinois, her Master of Education in special education from the same institution and her Doctorate of Education in special education from St. Louis University; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Harper Wright has dedicated the majority of her professional career to serving students with disabilities. She has served as an elementary school and special education teacher, a director of special education, a learning specialist at St. Louis University, and an interim and assistant superintendent of schools in Illinois District 189. She has also been a professor of education and has focused on the training of special education teachers. With respect to the administration of special education programs, Dr. Harper Wright's doctoral dissertation addressed the effects of federal and state legislation and litigation on special education programs and outcomes. She has also written extensively on the over-identification of black males for special education services; and

**WHEREAS**, as the director of special education services in District 189, Dr. Harper Wright established new programs for children with learning disabilities and emotional handicaps, and for gifted children with disabilities. She developed Project SHIPS, which focused on school based interventions for preschool children at risk for school failure. Dr. Harper Wright is listed in Who's Who of America, Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Who's Who in Education, and Who's Who among Black Americans. She also holds the National Council of Negro Women Illinois and National Black Women Leadership Award.; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Harper Wright is a member of President George W. Bush's Commission on Excellence in Special Education and serves on the Illinois Department of Corrections school board.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Dr. Katie Harper Wright on her selfless dedication to helping others and for her continuous effort to make a difference in the St. Louis community 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 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 9th day of May, 2008 by:

**Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen**  
**Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Adopted this the 9th day of May, 2008 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen