RESOLUTION NUMBER 148
Teamsters National Black Caucus

WHEREAS, the Teamsters National Black Caucus will hold its annual convention in St. Louis, the week of August 17th through August 23rd 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Teamsters Union is comprised of approximately 1.4 million members of which 400,000 are African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, African-American Teamster delegates attended the International Convention and received assurances from the union’s top officers that minorities would be promoted to key leadership positions in the near future; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1974, the General President, Frank Fitzsimmons hired the union’s first organizer in the history of the Teamsters Union. In September of 1975, black representatives from every conference of the United States met in Chicago for two days. At the conclusion of this meeting, the caucus had formed; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Metro Chapter of the Teamsters National Black Caucus has worked diligently in the St. Louis Metropolitan region and is under the leadership of President Roland Lewis. Mr. Lewis additionally serves as Vice-President of Teamster Local Union 688; the largest Teamster Local with about 8,000 members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the Teamsters National Black Caucus and wish them a productive and pleasant experience in 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 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 15th day of August, 2008 by:

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

Adopted this the 15th day of August, 2008 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney    Lewis E. Reed
Clerk, Board of Aldermen   President, Board of Aldermen