

RESOLUTION NUMBER 15
Retirement of Kim R. Besserman

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that on April 1st, 2008 with over 30 years of dedication in the fire service beginning July 1977 with the University City Fire Department and then in 1980 with the Pattonville-Bridgeton Fire District, our dear friend, Kim Robert Besserman has finally quit playing with his nozzle and has hung up his hose; and

WHEREAS, since being retired Kim is either sitting at home, in the Union Hall, on the golf course or barbecuing for someone or some charity, while his lovely bride of 28 years, Karen, a nurse, (affectionately known to Kim and many of us as; St. Karen) is still working for a proctology group and on her daily return home reminds Kim how much she loves him and that she sees him in her work every day; and

WHEREAS, Kim has been blessed with two children, his son and personal golf coach, Matthew, and his lovely daughter Sara; and

WHEREAS, Kim has claimed that from 1963-1966 Judge Robert Dowd Sr. exclaimed Kim to be the top soccer player in South St. Louis and was often invited to the Dowd's to help hone the skills of Robert Jr. and David Dowd but till this day Kim has pondered over why it was that Judge Dowd insisted that Kim lay on the ground and let Bob and Dave kick him in the head; and

WHEREAS, in his youth, after eight long years of having to endure the wrath of Sister John Leonard and being expelled from the choir by Monsignor Surren (at the request of the Choir Master, Kim Tucci), Kim made it through St. Stephen's Proto Martyr Catholic School and went on to a shining athletic career as a member of the girls wrestling team and was allowed to graduate from Cleveland High School in 1977; and

WHEREAS, later in 1977 on his first day of fire service in University City, Kim walked picket, joined and became a charter member of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2665, served as Treasurer for the Local from 1980 to 1986, served four years as the 2nd District Vice President for the Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters and Co-chaired the IAFF Convention held in St. Louis along with Kevin Kehoe and the late great Fred Guy; and

WHEREAS, in his spare time Kim has served as Campaign Manager, Treasurer, Office Manager and Budget Director for over eighty state, local, ballot, tax and bond issue campaigns without incident, media flap or pay; and

WHEREAS, December 31st, 2007 is recorded as Kim's last day in service and on January 2nd, 2008 he was immediately admitted... to the hospital to replace his knee in order to save his place on Dancing with the Stars (in the bars); and

WHEREAS, upon retirement we wish to congratulate Kim for becoming financially independent because he has finally paid all his tabs at; Mattingly's, Bunkers, Gettemeiers, Henke's, Sport's Café and The Bull Tadpole and we are certain a few he hasn't told Karen about; and

WHEREAS, for all you have done for each of us and the lives you have touched and we mean touched, we just wanted to say; Kim, Gee... you're swell; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that we pause in our deliberations to congratulate Kim Besserman for his many years of service to the citizens of which he protected and we wish him peace and happiness in his retirement and direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further 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 25th day of April, 2008 by:
Honorable Stephen M. Gregali, 14th Ward
Honorable Jennifer Florida, 15th Ward

Adopted this the 25th day of April, 2008 as attested:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen