

RESOLUTION NUMBER 195
Johnathan Suggs

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at the Hyatt Hotel the Metro Sentinel Journal News will convene its 33rd Annual “Yes I Can” awards banquet; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Michael C. Williams, owner and publisher, the Metro Sentinel Journal News continues to recognize the meaningful contributions of stellar St. Louisans; and

WHEREAS, local leaders have been nominated by their peers and admirers as “Special Achievers” in 2008; and

WHEREAS, these local leaders have established themselves as outstanding professionals in the public, private, non-profit, government and educational sectors; and

WHEREAS, John Suggs is the Director of Community Engagement for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri. In this role, he oversees all agency youth, volunteer and community outreach areas; and

WHEREAS, raised in Philadelphia, PA and a product of Eastern University, John has focused much of his time and energy serving his community. He has teamed with Philadelphia's top hip-hop radio station, WUSL-FM Power 99 for three consecutive years hosting both the “Increase the Peace Anti-Violence Youth Summit” and the “Hot Boyz School Tour.” He also landed a premiere position with the Philadelphia 76ers' Public and Community Relations Department, working with local and national members of the media; and

WHEREAS, recently, Mr. Suggs was featured alongside of John Legend, Bernard Hopkins and Kirk Franklin in “Holla Back...But Listen First,” a motivational book for African-American young men written by Mister Mann Frisby; and

WHEREAS, while in St. Louis, he has wasted no time in making an impact, as Director of Urban Services for the YMCA of Greater St. Louis, John was responsible for launching the first annual “Safe Night St. Louis” Youth Rally and created The Money Matter literacy project, which won funding from Citi Financial; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he is the Pastor of New Consolation Christian Center, which was founded in 2007. Today, John is invested in seeing the lives of people changed for the better, forever! Coining the phrase 'Tough times don't last, only tough people do' as his theme, John sets out to encourage people to always 'Win in Life,' reach their dream, discover their personal destiny and to serve others.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Johnathan Suggs for his stellar accomplishments and commitment to making our region a better place to live and work. We direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this resolution to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on the 24th day of October, 2007

Honorable April Ford-Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Adopted this the 24th day of October, 2007 as attested:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen