

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 49**

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

**WHEREAS**, first elected in 1997 at the age of 27, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman April Ford-Griffin has served in several critical capacities while at the Board of Aldermen including serving as; chairman of the Neighborhood Development Committee, vice-chair of the Streets Committee and is a key member of the Ways and Means, Housing and Urban Development and Personnel committees. Alderwoman Ford-Griffin has also served as chairman of the African American Aldermanic Caucus; and

**WHEREAS**, during Alderwoman Ford-Griffin's tenure in office as a full-time alderman, the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward has undertaken over \$800,000,000.00 worth of new residential, commercial and institutional development. Her leadership has lead to the construction and/or renovation of over 1,500 units of quality, mixed-income housing. She was also recently very instrumental in assisting the St. Louis Housing Authority and minority developer KAI in securing a \$20,000,000.00 HOPE VI grant which is being used to transform the dilapidated Cochran Gardens public housing development into Cambridge Heights a viable, attractive, mixed income community. Alderwoman Ford-Griffin has also been celebrated for her commitment to the inclusion of minority developers and contractors in the revitalization of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward. To date, minority developers have spearheaded over \$25,000,000.00 worth of new development activities in her Ward. She has also ensured that local minority contractors have had an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the on going renaissance of the area; and

**WHEREAS**, Alderwoman Ford-Griffin has also developed a keen sense of awareness of the effectiveness of non-profit organizations operating in the City of St. Louis. To date she has provided legislative and/or financial support to organizations such as the St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation, Pruitt Igoe, Inc., Better Family Life, Places for People, Doorways, Youth and Family Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, Cahill House Tenant Affairs Board, Haven of Grace, 100 Black Men, Grace Hill, Habitat for Humanity-St. Louis, North Grand Neighborhood Services, Monsanto Family YMCA, Employment Connection, Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, Community Renewal and Development, CHIPS, Vashon/Jeff-Vander-Lou Initiative and COVAM in their efforts to serve the residents of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward; and

**WHEREAS**, Alderwoman Ford-Griffin also is a former commissioner of the St. Louis Airport and a former member of the Governor's Lead Prevention Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Alderwoman Ford-Griffin comes from a family with a long history of elected public service. Her parents, Louis and Ida Ford, served for over thirty years in public office and her brother, Anthony, is a former state representative. Alderwoman Ford-Griffin a dedicated mother of three children is also a member of the Rhema Baptist Assembly church, a member of the Order of Easter Star and a member of the Daughter of Isis.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Alderwoman. April Ford Griffin 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