

RESOLUTION NUMBER 51

Sister Mary Ann McGivern

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Sister Mary Ann McGivern will exiting as the executive director of Project COPE; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann McGivern joined the Sisters of Loretto at the age of seventeen. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Webster University and a Master's degree in school administration from Stanford University. While teaching English and Social Studies in Denver, a student convinced McGivern to help deliver Thanksgiving food to migrant workers. The poor conditions of the migrant workers compelled her, through writing and protesting, to change the capitalistic system; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, McGivern permanently moved to St. Louis. From 1972-1976, McGivern worked for the Institute of Peace and Justice at St. Louis University, a group that taught teachers how to teach nonviolence. In 1977, McGivern became the director of the Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment and founded the St. Louis Economic Conversion Project, an organization that is concerned with redirecting arms resources toward peaceful uses. Also in 1977, McGivern was one of seven women who founded the Karen House in St. Louis, a Catholic Worker shelter for homeless women and children; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being active in many social justice and peace organizations, McGivern worked as a freelance writer. She has written various political and economic essays for the *St. Louis Review*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the *Catholic Worker Round Table*, and various other publications. McGivern worked as an editor for the *Peace Curriculum Review*, the *Economic Conversion Journal*, *Interchange*, and *Economic Conversion News*. She has also written four plays and a cookbook. McGivern has broadcasted a KWMU Monday morning commentary segment entitled "Living in St. Louis" since 1985; and

WHEREAS, Project COPE accepts men and women who have served long prison terms for violent crimes, matching them with partnership teams from faith congregations in a one-year commitment. This next year, they expect to foster 55 partnerships between ex-offenders and teams. The team offers intensive personal help, including tangible items such as bus passes and clothing, as well as intangibles such as friendship and support aimed at helping the person build a new life. In return, the ex-offender offers the team an opportunity to learn from someone with very different life experiences. COPE also owns ten transitional housing units in north St. Louis city; and

WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Ann McGivern, as the executive director of COPE, oversees all of this work, with the help of a small part-time staff. Not only is she in charge of raising funds and administering the staff, but she also monitors the housing program, does occasional training, selects clients for the program, supervises the team efforts, and works with the board of directors. It is rewarding work, but it involves long hours and lots of hard work.

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 many achievements of Sister Mary Ann McGivern and we 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 5th day of June, 2009 by:

Honorable Antonio D. French Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 5th day of June, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

