

RESOLUTION NUMBER 290

Darryl Burton

WHEREAS, we pause in our deliberations to recognize the prison release of Darryl Burton; and

WHEREAS, the trial error that freed Darryl Burton from a 1985 murder conviction in St. Louis would never happen in the computer age, according to a top prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, a key prosecution witness, who is now in prison for an unrelated murder, lied in a way that minimized his own criminal record at Burton's trial, and neither the prosecution nor the defense challenged it; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton claimed from the start that he did not shoot Donald Ball, 26, who was slain shortly before 10 p.m. June 4, 1984, as he pumped gas at an Amoco station at Goodfellow and Delmar Boulevards. "I've got 24 years behind the eight ball; it was hell on Earth," Burton said at a news conference in Kansas City, where he plans to live with cousins. "Prison's a stressful place, especially when you're innocent and no one believes you;" and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton had filed a flurry of state and federal appeals over the years and got nowhere until Centurion Ministries accepted his case in 2000 and helped finance an investigation. "Everything I was doing fell on deaf ears," Burton said. "I'm from the ghetto ... and me and my family, we've been harmed and the real perpetrator is moving on down the road." Burton claims he was not near the gas station that day, and there was no physical evidence to the contrary; and

WHEREAS, after 25 years, Mr. Burton was reunited with his daughter, Tynesha Lee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize Mr. Darryl Burton 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 copy for presentation, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 23rd day of January, 2009 by:

Honorable Samuel L. Moore Alderman 4th Ward

Adopted this the 23rd day of January, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen