

## RESOLUTION NO. 120835

Declaring Friday, October 5, 2012, as Vaclav Havel Day in Kansas City, Missouri.

WHEREAS, the Czech & Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City, Missouri are sponsoring a one act play written by Vaclav Havel entitled, "The Audience" to be performed by the Metropolitan Ensemble Theater, at the downtown Kansas City, Missouri Public library the evening of Friday October 5, 2012, the anniversary of Havel's birthday; and

WHEREAS, the play celebrates the life of Vaclav Havel, who was a Czech playwright, essayist, poet, dissident, humanist, politician and an admired international world leader that was born on October 5, 1936 in Prague, Czechoslovakia and passed away on December 18, 2011 (age 75) at Vlcice, Czech Republic; and

WHEREAS, Havel, in January of 1977 drafted and signed the "Manifesto of Charter 77" demanding that the Communist government of Czechoslovakia recognize basic human rights of its citizens which were guaranteed by the Czechoslovakia Constitution and the Helsinki Accords; and

WHEREAS, Havel was the ninth and last President of Czechoslovakia (1989-1992) and the first President of the Czech Republic (1993-2003); and

WHEREAS, Havel was the recipient of the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Gandhi Peace Prize, the Philadelphia Liberty Medal, the Order of Canada Freedom Medal award, the Ambassador of Conscience Award, and numerous other distinctions, as well a Nobel Peace Prize nominee; and

WHEREAS, Vaclav Havel is recognized as the chief negotiator who ended 42 years of Communist rule in Czechoslovakia and became the first President of a new and free democratic republic and was one of the most important political thinkers in Central Europe and moral voices in the world; and NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declare Friday, October 5, 2012, as Vaclav Havel Day in Kansas City, Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic to the Midwest, Sharon K. Valasek, and Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest, Ross P. Marine with the appreciation of the Mayor, Council and citizens of Kansas City for the many works of Vaclav Havel.

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