

RESOLUTION NO. 080335

Expressing the Council's opposition to the proposed amendment to the Missouri Constitution that will invalidate the City's efforts to encourage minority and women business enterprises through the use of qualified subcontractors on certain City projects and purchases.

WHEREAS, the use of MBE / WBE programs by government has been shown to be an effective method of encouraging the development of small businesses owned by persons who have traditionally been discriminated against in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the City has implemented MBE / WBE programs based upon the findings of the most recent disparity study revealing past discrimination in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, these lawful programs address important past social and economic injustices; and

WHEREAS, such MBE / WBE programs are designed to be reduced and eventually eliminated over the course of time as the vestiges of past discrimination are removed; and

WHEREAS, Missouri initiative petition 2008-009 is a product of the national efforts of California resident Mr. Ward Connerly to eliminate lawful affirmative action programs in public schools, employment and contracting before lawful MBE / WBE programs have sufficiently achieved their goals; and

WHEREAS, to be placed on the November 2008 ballot over 150,000 signatures must be obtained before May 4, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the group attempting to eliminate lawful programs designed to remedy past discrimination calls itself the Missouri Civil Rights Initiative despite its obvious intention to eliminate what are traditional and accepted lawful civil rights programs; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Council expresses its opposition to the amendment of the Missouri Constitution to prohibit lawful affirmative action programs in public schools, employment and contracting.

Section 2. That the Council urges the people of Kansas City to carefully consider the impact of the proposed Constitutional amendment before signing any petition.

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Section 3. That the Council urges the circulators of petitions to be clear and not to mislead potential signers as has been alleged in other states, such as Oklahoma, that the initiative is to end discrimination rather than the accurate statement that the initiative will end lawful remedial programs.

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