

RESOLUTION NO. 061420

Honoring Larry Stewart, Kansas City's Secret Santa.

WHEREAS, Kansas City has been blessed with the true spirit of Christmas thanks to the kindness and generosity of a man long known simply as "Secret Santa;" and

WHEREAS, every year near Christmas, people in need of a bit of help have looked up to find a friendly, white-haired man in white overalls and a red flannel shirt holding a \$100 bill in his hand. Secret Santa has been exceedingly generous to those most in need; since 1979, he has anonymously given away almost one and a half million dollars and an immeasurable amount of hope and goodwill; and

WHEREAS, this year, Secret Santa's story has reached people around the world, and inspired thousands of new Secret Santas, rich and poor, all wanting to share in the joy of giving. Such random acts of kindness benefit us all; and

WHEREAS, the inspiring story of Secret Santa is the subject of a new book, *Santa's Secret: A Story of Hope* written by Donna McGuire, a reporter for the Kansas City STAR. Profits from the sale of the book will be donated to local charities; and

WHEREAS, all people, rich or poor, can be Secret Santas, simply by doing something nice for someone. There is joy in such generosity, and it can be shared always. Consider the words of Ebenezer Scrooge: "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year;" NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize and extend their fondest regards and best wishes to our City's Secret Santa, who we know to be Larry D. Stewart, and his many ELFS (ELF stands for "Everlasting Friends"); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council proclaim this December 14th and every December 14th hereafter to be known as Secret Santa Day, a day to honor the spirit and generosity exemplified by Larry D. Stewart; 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 our beloved Secret Santa, Larry D. Stewart.
