

RESOLUTION NO. 130307

Declaring April 20, 2013, as "TROOST RISING! Day" to be celebrated at the 9th Annual Troost Avenue Festival.

WHEREAS, the diverse history of what we today call Troost Avenue was an area of Osage Indian trails, the Porter Slave Plantation between 23rd and 31st Streets, Millionaire's Row between 26th and Linwood, a "city within a city" with over 186 businesses within 2 blocks of 31st and Troost, was eventually changed over the past 60 years due to "white flight" and disinvestment along Troost Avenue, with resulting poverty and blight; and

WHEREAS, the reputation of Troost Avenue became known as the "racial dividing line" to the point where noted broadcaster Walt Bodine referred to Troost Avenue as Kansas City's "Berlin Wall"; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, a grassroots group known as "Troost Folks" sponsored the first Troost Avenue Festival with the stated purpose of changing Troost Avenue from a dividing line to a gathering place; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2009, Troost Village Community Association was incorporated "to educate people sector leaders to facilitate a dialogue...in a village economy ... an economy of meaning, as resources of all kinds flow through the community (art, communications, community, education, environment, health, justice, resources, science, and spirituality) to facilitate community development"; and

WHEREAS, over the past nine years many groups have gathered together around the theme of creating a gathering place on Troost; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declare April 20, 2013, as "TROOST RISING! Day" to be celebrated at the 9th Annual Troost Avenue Festival; 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 the Troost Folks of the Troost Village Community Association in token of the support by the Mayor, Council and citizens of Kansas City for the bringing together of both sides of Troost Avenue into a beloved community.

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