

RESOLUTION NO. 090745

Recognizing and expressing appreciation to Lester Siegel Jr. for his service as Commissioner and Chairman of the Planned Industrial Expansion Authority of Kansas City, Missouri (“PIEA”).

WHEREAS, Lester Siegel, Jr. was appointed as one of the first members of the PIEA on April 30, 1974, by Mayor Charles Wheeler and has served continuously since that time through May 29, 2009. During his tenure, Lester served in all officers’ positions in the PIEA including six years as its Chairman from 1992 to 1994 and from 2005 to 2008. He also has served as the PIEA’s representative to the City Market Oversight Committee for 18 consecutive years and will continue to serve in that capacity until May, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Lester was born in Kansas City, and owned and operated Harzfeld’s, a high fashion woman’s clothier founded by his grandfather in 1891 which, at its peak, consisted of 5 stores in the Kansas City area, and stores in Columbia, Missouri, and Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Lester’s passion for public service grew from the sense of community fostered by his family and friends, his experience gained as a young businessman and, later, by the wisdom and perspective that comes with age; and

WHEREAS, Lester contributed to successful redevelopment efforts undertaken by the PIEA in 43 redevelopment areas and, in his latest tenure as Chairman, guided significant redevelopment activity in industrial areas of Kansas City as well as midtown, the Troost Corridor, and downtown; and

WHEREAS, a notable achievement during Lester’s chairmanship was the creation of the Crossroads Arts PIEA District, a unique application of redevelopment law which provided property tax stability in an overheated real estate market, rehabilitation and preservation of unique and historic structures, and retention of the eclectic mix of artists and urbanites that spurred further redevelopment and national recognition for preserving and growing Kansas City’s art community and art economy; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby express their heartfelt and sincere appreciation to Lester Siegel, Jr. for his contributions to Kansas City and his 35 years of service to the Planned Industrial Expansion Authority of Kansas City, Missouri and recognize him as an outstanding citizen and a genuine and honorable gentleman; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council as testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Lester Siegel, Jr. as a token of the appreciation of the Mayor and City Council.

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