

RESOLUTION NO. 060444

Declaring April 22, 2006, as “Kansas City Walks Against AIDS Day” in Kansas City, Missouri.

WHEREAS, this year marks the 18th annual AIDS Walk Kansas City, a local fundraising event and awareness project that is presented by the AIDS Service Foundation of Greater Kansas City that attracts thousands of people, including community and corporate teams, this event benefits the Kansas City Free Health Clinic, Good Samaritan Project, SAVE, Inc., and HARCMart; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, an estimated 3,000 people participated in the walk and together they raised over \$325,000.00 for the men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Since its inception, the Walk has raised \$5 million to benefit agencies that provide essential services to people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS throughout our large and diverse community; and

WHEREAS, in Kansas City, more than 5,000 people live with HIV/AIDS, 700 of those being between the ages of 13 and 24. Since 1981 almost a half million people have died of AIDS in the United States and 40,000 individuals become infected each year; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas City Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) has experienced an increase in new HIV cases over the last two years and decrease in Ryan White Title I federal funding to provide health and social services to low income, uninsured, or under insured persons infected with AIDS/HIV. The Ryan White CARE Act is a payer of last resort, designed to address the gaps left by private insurance and other publicly financed health care systems, expired September 30, 2005 and awaits reauthorization by the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 AIDS Walk Kansas City demonstrates the compassion and caring of people of all ages, from all backgrounds and walks of life who come together with corporate sponsors to participate in this event to raise funds as well as increase community education and awareness with the intent to decrease transmission; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declare April 22, 2006, as “Kansas City Walks Against AIDS 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 is presented to the AIDS Service Foundation of Greater Kansas City with the urging of the Mayor and Council for every Kansas Citian to participate in this celebration of community spirit, fun and festivities and make this the most successful Walk to date.
