

RESOLUTION NO. 110134

Declaring Kansas City as the College Basketball Capital of America.

WHEREAS, March 1, 2011, will be the official start of post-season basketball with a celebration in the Power and Light District; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City has been home to more Final Fours, regional finals and NCAA Tournament games than any other city and it is where the greatest championship player and coach, Bill Russell and John Wooden, won their first titles; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City is an epicenter of three teams, Kansas State, Kansas and Missouri who all play regularly here and is the home of Division I UMKC; and

WHEREAS, the Big 12 men's and women's tournaments as well as the NAIA and MIAA tournaments are fixtures in Kansas City and the sport's hall of fame is here as well as the national headquarters for the National Association of Basketball Coaches; and

WHEREAS, the Big Eight Tournament started just after World War II, the NAIA Tournament debuted in 1937, the Olympic playoff series of 1936, the National AAU Tournaments of the 1920s and 1930s, even the 1905 series between the Kansas City Athletic Club and Buffalo Germs dubbed "The World Championship of Basketball" all helped mold Kansas City as a hoop destination; and

WHEREAS, catalysts that promoted hoops in the region were the game's inventor James Naismith, who arrived to teach physical education at Kansas in 1898 and spent much time refereeing games throughout the area, Phog Allen, who marketed then started in the big KCAC event and later became a KU star and legendary coach, with the opening of the Municipal Auditorium in 1936 it gave the NAIA and NCAA tournaments a showcase palace with the offices of the NCAA and Big Eight being located downtown; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declare Kansas City as the College Basketball Capital of America; 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 John McCarthy, Kansas City Collegiate Basketball Association, with the appreciation of the Mayor, Council and citizens of Kansas City for the many years of enjoyment watching basketball in Kansas City.

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