

RESOLUTION NO. 171003

Congratulating Jerry Kitzi on his retirement from the Office of Early Learning for the Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools.

WHEREAS, Jerry Kitzi began his career in education after graduating from Missouri Valley College in 1973, and after completing his master's degree in education at University of Missouri at Columbia in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Kitzi then joined the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as the Director of Project Early, a comprehensive early childhood education program and later became the vice president for the Youth Development Division; and

WHEREAS, Kitzi was responsible for overall planning, coordination and implementation of the division's operating and grant-making strategies in support of early childhood education and youth development and served as the executive director of the Francis Family Foundation, one of Kansas City's most innovative philanthropies in early childhood and school-age care and education; and

WHEREAS, after nearly two decades in philanthropy, Kitzi returned to the field of education and served as a Special Services Administrator at the Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley campus in Kansas City where he served as the director of the Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development, and Chair of the Department of Child Growth and Development; and

WHEREAS, Kitzi could have retired, however he chose to aid the Kansas City Public Schools and assist in changing the culture of the struggling Head Start Program; and

WHEREAS, Kitzi celebrated many success during his tenure at Kansas City Public Schools including the opening of two early childhood community schools, launched fourteen Missouri Preschool Project (MPP) classrooms and a Teen Infant Program at Central Academy, raised more than \$5 million annually for early learning programs, and headed the fight for Universal Pre-Kindergarten and a Pre-Kindergarten levy; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council congratulate Jerry Kitzi on his retirement from the Office of Early Learning for the Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools; 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 Jerry Kitzi with the best wishes of the Mayor and Council for a very happy retirement.



Authenticated as Passed

[Handwritten Signature]

Shy James, Mayor

[Handwritten Signature]

Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

DEC 14 2017

Date Passed