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10/25/2022

RESOLUTION NO. 7005, 2022

Introduced by Councilmembers Clancy & Dunaway

**R E S O L U T I O N**

WHEREAS, libraries serve as gateways to knowledge and culture and play a fundamental role in society by offering resources and services that create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society; and

WHEREAS, for the last 75 years, the St. Louis County Library has provided a valued public space where diverse people can come together and feel safe, supported, and empowered; and

WHEREAS, when the St. Louis County Library District was formed in 1946, the library consisted of the Library Director, a secretary and a loaned office in the old Normandy High School; and

WHEREAS, today, the library operates 20 state-of-the-art library branches, with 600 employees, providing service to 860,000 County residents and the entire St. Louis region with a collection of over 1.8 million items; and

WHEREAS, this year has been marked by many accomplishments of the St. Louis County Library, including: launching a shared catalog with St. Louis Public Library, starting construction on the Clark Family Branch which will replace the former headquarters, winning the 2022 National Medal for Museum & Library Service, expanding the Digital Equity Initiative which includes the GrandPads program, and introducing new initiatives such as free notary services, disc golf kits, fort building kits, and expanding justice-involved services; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the Missouri Library Association named St. Louis County Library the 2022 Missouri Library of the Year for distinguished and outstanding work for the community, including work in the areas of digital equity, community partnerships, improved facilities, and COVID-19 relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County Library is celebrating 75 years of service to the St. Louis community with special programs and events throughout the end of the year, including the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Storytelling Festival October 13-22 and the St. Louis Teen Book Festival in December; and

WHEREAS, one of the best ways to ensure the continued success of libraries in our communities is to support and patronize them; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis Countians are encouraged to celebrate the St. Louis County Library's longstanding service to the community by participating in upcoming events, visiting the library, attaining or renewing your library card, and by thanking librarians and library workers who are the unsung heroes of public library services;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The County Council congratulates the St. Louis County Library on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> year of service and its many accomplishments throughout those 75 years, including recently being named Missouri Library of the Year.

SECTION 2. The Administrative Director shall send certified copies of this resolution to St. Louis County Library and Kristen Sorth, St. Louis County Library Director and Chief Executive Officer as a permanent token of its sincere gratitude and esteem.

ADOPTED: October 25, 2022

RITA HEARD DAYS  
CHAIR, COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST: DIANN L. VALENTI  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

BETH ORWICK  
COUNTY COUNSELOR