WHEREAS, every person in Saint Louis and the United States should have guaranteed timely access to health services of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, our society has a moral obligation to ensure health care for all its people; and

WHEREAS, health care rationing and discrimination based on socioeconomic status and perceived social worth is inherent in profit-driven healthcare; and

WHEREAS, health care must be allocated according to medical need; and

WHEREAS, in a 2016 survey of Saint Louis residents, Black residents were twice as likely to not have insurance, and gave Saint Louis a Racial Equity Score of 40 out of 100; and

WHEREAS, a 2019 study by the U.S. Census Bureau showed an increase in Missouri’s uninsured, ranking Missouri at 36th in health care nationwide based on increasing mortality rates, increasing premature deaths, increasing rates of cancer mortality, lack of access to preventive care, undiagnosed or untreated chronic illness, and more Emergency Room visits; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of insuring a City employee is just under $8,000, or 17% of the average City employee’s salary; and

WHEREAS, health care costs are rising faster than wages; and the rising cost of insuring municipal employees and retirees can best be met, not by limiting benefits, but by expanding them under a national, publicly funded health care program; and

WHEREAS, Saint Louis is home to world-class universities, medical schools, hospitals and clinics; and

WHEREAS, Saint Louis hospitals will benefit from prompt, guaranteed payment for services, and an enhanced public image,

WHEREAS, the United States spends nearly twice as much per capita on health care compared to other industrialized countries, yet only a fraction of our people are entitled to it; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks 35th by the World Health Organization in quality of health care using public health standards, such as life expectancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and death from preventable causes; and

WHEREAS, the long-term effects of COVID-19 will continue to haunt our City, increasing risk to life and health for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, citizens with commercial insurance often experience delays in obtaining medical care or denials of reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, citizens with commercial insurance suffer increasing out-of-pocket costs increasing premiums, uncovered services, and out of network bills, yet more than one-half of all personal bankruptcies are due to medical bills; and
WHEREAS, the Medicare for All Act of 2021 guarantees universality, accessibility, and comprehensive care including preventive care, hearing and vision care, mental health services and dental care, reproductive and maternity services, long term care, and prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All would adequately fund health care in an efficient, fair, and sustainable way; and

WHEREAS, under Medicare for All, Saint Louis businesses will have a healthier, more productive workforce, and be competitive without cost burdens of insurance for current or retired employees; and

WHEREAS, Medicare for All would reduce costs substantially through elimination of bureaucratic waste and bloated administration, simple streamlined billing, and by negotiating drug prices with manufacturers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen the Board supports and endorses The Medicare for All Act of 2021, which will expand health security and health services to all, eliminate health disparities, and lower health care costs, and hereby directs the Clerk of the Board of Aldermen to send a copy of this Resolution to Missouri’s U.S. Representatives and Senators.

Introduced this 6th day of May 2022 by:
The Honorable Pamela Boyd, Alderwoman 27th Ward
The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President Board of Aldermen
The Honorable Lisa Middlebrook, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
The Honorable Dwinderlin Evans, Alderwoman 4th Ward
The Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward
The Honorable Annie Rice, Alderwoman 8th Ward
The Honorable Dan Guenther, Alderman 9th Ward
The Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward
The Honorable Bill Stephens, Alderwoman 12th Ward
The Honorable Anne Schweitzer, Alderwoman 13th Ward
The Honorable Megan E. Green, Alderwoman 15th Ward
The Honorable Thomas Oldenburg, Alderman 16th Ward
The Honorable Tina Pihl, Alderwoman 17th Ward
The Honorable Jesse Todd, Alderman 18th Ward
The Honorable Cara Spencer, Alderwoman 20th Ward
The Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
The Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
The Honorable Bret Narayan, Alderman 24th Ward
The Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward
The Honorable Shameem Clark Hubbard, Alderwoman 26th Ward
The Honorable Pamela Boyd, Alderwoman 27th Ward
The Honorable Michael Gras, Alderman 28th Ward

Adopted this 13th day of May, 2022 as attested by:

________________________________________  __________________________
Terry Kennedy                                      Lewis Reed
Clerk, Board of Aldermen                         President, Board of Aldermen