

Resolution Number 251
Opposition to Plans to Relocate Federal Jobs from Downtown St. Louis

WHEREAS, on March 3rd, 2014 General Service Administration (GSA) Region 6 Administrator Jason Klump announced plans to consolidate more than 800 Veteran's Affairs employees from two downtown sites to an office park in suburban Overland, MO; and

WHEREAS, civic and community leaders are hard at work at every level, from block captain to CEO, making the City of St. Louis and its downtown more prosperous, livable and sustainable; and

WHEREAS, leaders throughout the bi-state region understand the importance of a thriving central city and the role the State and Federal Governments play in making that a reality; and

WHEREAS, the GSA consolidation in Overland starkly contrasts with smart growth principles that encourage investment in high density, walkable and easily-accessed urban centers; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration's own *Partnership for Sustainable Communities* promotes development in communities that have a variety of housing and transportation choices, even issuing Executive Order 13514, which, in Sec. 10 "Recommendations for Sustainable Locations for Federal Facilities," encourages federal jobs to be sited in areas served by transit, that are safe and convenient for pedestrians and near affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, walk-in services provided by the downtown offices steer veteran's, some of whom are homeless and living nearby, towards the various services and benefits VA offers and will not be easily accessed after the move; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis should follow the lead of Kansas City and consolidate these Federal jobs in the regional center of commerce—downtown.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis stand in opposition to the proposed relocation of VA jobs from the City of St. Louis to Overland, MO. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings.

Introduced on the 14th day of March, 2014 by:

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Adopted this the 14th day of March, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen