



Legislation Text

File #: RES 23-1683, **Version:** 1

Recognizing Jeanne Weigum Day in the City of Saint Paul.

WHEREAS, Jeanne Weigum is the grande dame of advocacy and community building in Saint Paul, MN and beyond for the past 50+ years; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne grew up in the prairies of Mobridge, South Dakota where she gained a deep appreciation of nature and wildlife and where the spirit of volunteerism was nurtured by her family, and

WHEREAS, Jeanne was drawn to social work earning degrees from Bethel University and a Masters degree from the University of Minnesota, bringing her passion for criminal justice to Hennepin County Corrections and the state prison at Lino Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne also followed her desire to create larger scale impact by directing her focus to community organizing and policy advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne started volunteering with Association for Nonsmokers Rights (ANSR) in 1975 and moved her way up until she became its President, a role for which she never took a salary. Jeanne has been a tireless advocate, a changemaker, and a public policy force in reducing tobacco use and access locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne has built impressive coalitions to deliver ordinances banning smoking at bars and restaurants, placing restrictions on the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco, raising the tobacco purchase age to 21, and most recently, prohibiting smoking in public parks; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne has not only leveraged her skills on tobacco regulation, Jeanne also organized against the proliferation of billboards in Saint Paul for decades as part of a grassroots movement called Scenic Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne was a long serving president of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, helping establish the no-net-loss of parklands in Saint Paul and Ramsey County and worked to preserve, protect and enhance those park systems; and

WHEREAS, After fostering dogs for the Humane Society and Second Chance Animal Rescue, Jeanne founded Pooches United with People (PUP) which provides wellness clinics in remote areas for hundreds of dogs and rescues unwanted puppies and dogs and places them in permanent loving homes; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne created and maintains Weigum's Great Plains Landscape Arboretum in Mobridge to test and demonstrate trees, shrubs, and perennials in the harsh conditions of extreme high and low temperatures, high winds, limited rainfall and alkaline soil and established an endowment to sustain it into the future ; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne created and tends to two ornamental gardens on street right-of-ways which were previously junk strewn eyesores and now make a welcoming gate way, and she tends to numerous gardens along Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne continues to leave an indelible mark on the community around her with her fearless, tireless, and compassionate leadership that truly serves as inspiration to us all,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Saint Paul City Council sincerely thanks Jeanne Weigum for her many years of advocacy and community investment in Saint Paul; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, In honor of Jeanne's dedication to the City of St. Paul, December 13, 2023, will be known as 'Jeanne Weigum Day' in the City of Saint Paul.