



# Jackson County Missouri

Jackson County Courthouse  
415 E. 12th Street, 2nd floor  
Kansas City, Missouri  
64106  
(816)881-3242

## Legislation Text

---

File #: 20649, Version: 0

---

### IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

**A RESOLUTION** honoring the life and achievements of Sister Corita Bussanmas.

**RESOLUTION NO. 20649**, April 12, 2021

**INTRODUCED BY** Ronald E. Finley, Dan Tarwater III, Theresa Cass Galvin, Jalen Anderson, Crystal Williams, Tony Miller, Scott Burnett, Charlie Franklin, and Jeanie Lauer, County Legislators

WHEREAS, Sister Corita Bussanmas, co-founder with Sister Berta Sailor, of Operation Breakthrough, passed away on March 27, 2021, at home with her family; and,

WHEREAS, Sister Corita spent most of her life championing children and families facing adversity; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Breakthrough is a not-for-profit agency that provides early childhood education, and before-and after-school and summer enrichment programs, as well as a broad range of health and social services for poor families in Kansas City; and,

WHEREAS, Sister Corita, a native of Des Moines, IA, was sent to Kansas City in 1967 by her order, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to run St. Vincent's School; and,

WHEREAS, in 1971, the Catholic diocese closed St. Vincent's Parish and, with the loss of funding,

Sister Corita and Sister Berta joined with neighborhood parents to incorporate Operation Breakthrough, Inc., as a not-for-profit agency with no religious affiliation; and,

WHEREAS, Sister Corita devoted her life to the children of Operation Breakthrough, working days, nights, and weekends to keep the program thriving; and,

WHEREAS, Sister Corita was someone who saw a need and, through perseverance, ingenuity, and dogged devotion, did what needed to be done to fill that need through Operation Breakthrough; and,

WHEREAS, the Kansas City community has felt Sister Corita's impact, as a leader and an inspiration, for more than 50 years; and,

WHEREAS, Sister Corita is survived by Sister Berta Sailer, daughters Kenyauta Sailer and Vanshay Purnell, sons Ronald Sailer and Tyrez Scott, honorary sons Myles Cason and Chris Waxter, along with Chris's children Lailani and Christian, grandson Kyler Sailer, many nieces, nephews, and more than 70 young people who spent some part of their childhood living under Sister Corita's and Sister Berta's roof, including Darius and Jaya Phillips; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Legislature of Jackson County, Missouri, that the Legislature hereby recognizes the life and extraordinary achievements of Sister Corita Bussanmas and extends its deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

..Enacted and Approved

Effective Date: This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage by a majority of the Legislature.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Deputy County Counselor

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Counselor

Certificate of Passage

I hereby certify that the attached resolution, Resolution No. 20649 of April 12, 2021, was duly passed on April 12, 2021 by the Jackson County Legislature. The votes thereon were as follows:

Yeas 9

Nays 0

Abstaining 0

Absent 0

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Jo Spino, Clerk of Legislature