February 11, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

City of Springfield Statement on the Passing of Greg Greven

On behalf of the City of Springfield, the Springfield City Council wishes to express its condolences to the friends and family of Greg Greven.

"Mr. Greven was a tireless advocate for accessibility rights in our community," said Mayor Jim O'Neal. "He was passionate, and he was engaged. He helped all of us think more broadly about accessibility and inclusiveness — not only in our physical facilities, but in our words and our actions."

Greven was a member of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Outreach, and became chair of that group on Jan. 1. The Commission works to promote understanding and respect among all citizens and provides the community recourse for discriminatory acts. The Commission investigates alleged incidents of discrimination and tries to mediate settlements between affected parties.

Greven often communicated with the City, speaking on behalf of those with disabilities in the community. He spoke to Council as recently as one week ago, about how the recent snow storm would affect voters with disabilities coming to the polls for the City Council primary election. Greven assisted the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management in making preparations for a special needs shelter following the January 2007 ice storm. Greven also was a member of the Missouri Governor's Council on Disability, having been appointed in 2008.

"After the Human Rights Commission's strategic plan was approved by City Council last summer, Greg volunteered to become a commissioner and help the group make those goals a reality in the future," said Commission member Carol Zablocki, who is the immediate past chair.

"When it came to dealing with folks with disabilities and the problems they faced, he was a great resource. He knew who to contact and how to go about doing it," Zablocki said. "He was persistent, but never in your face about it."

Office of the City Clerk