

RESOLUTION NO. 13-135

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are pleased to honor Ms. Cynthia McCollum, first African American City Council Member/President Madison City Council during Black History Month, February 2013; and,

WHEREAS, Cynthia's political career began in 1987 when she was appointed to fill a new Madison City Council seat created, for an African American, to settle Madison's portion of the Dillard vs. Crenshaw statewide lawsuit to end at-large voting. She first won election in 1989 and served several terms both as Council President and President Pro Tem in her 18 years as a council member; and,

WHEREAS, she was always regarded as an advocate of the employees serving as Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee for well over 15 years. She served as liaison to several city departments to include Public Works, Finance, Personnel and the Police departments instituting cost savings measures throughout her tenure. She was never afraid to stand on her principles in taking on the hard issues, such as taking the lead and was successful in passage of legislation to ban smoking in local restaurants, and even successfully took on the EBAY Corporation in removing racially offensive paraphernalia from their sites; and,

WHEREAS, Cynthia's commitment to her community is exemplified by her past and current service on several boards and committees. She was a gubernatorial appointee to the US Space & Rocket Center where she became vice chair of the Finance Authority, served on the Executive Committee of the Alabama League of Municipalities, served as a trustee on the Municipal Worker's Compensation Fund, Inc., managing of \$500M annually. She was also a past board member of the Madison County Senior Center, Volunteer Center, Community Action Agency, Kids on the Block, and was a founding member of the Madison County Big Brother/Big Sisters, and the Drugs Offer No Tomorrow program in Madison. She currently serves on the Madison Planning and Zoning Commission and is a trustee with the North Alabama Gas District, is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and is an officer and member of the Greater Huntsville Chapter of the Links, Inc.; and,

WHEREAS, nationally, Cynthia was elected by her peers to serve on the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities (NLC), the nation's oldest and largest organization representing municipal government. Her keen business acumen landed her a spot on the NLC Finance and Investment Committee and she also served on the Information & Technology Steering and Policy Committee, the Advisory Council and several of the President's special appointment committees. She also served as president of the National Black Caucus of Local & Elected Officials, whose membership represents the largest African American political organization in the world. Her work with NLC eventually led to her becoming the first Alabamian to ascend to the Presidency of the National League of Cities. She has met and collaborated with U.S. Presidents and their staff and has served as an emissary on behalf of the United States to the Peoples Republic of China; and,

WHEREAS, Cynthia has received numerous honors and awards during her career including, Female Politician of the Year by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Politician of the Year from 20 Distinguished Young Men of Huntsville, Commendation from the Alabama Senate for Distinguished Community Service, and numerous awards from local churches, and groups throughout the nation; and,

***WHEREAS**, Cynthia, currently works as a Professional Development Counselor with the US Army Materiel Command Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA) at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. She is a native of Huntsville, Alabama with undergraduate degrees in the School of Education in psychology and sociology from Alabama A&M University and graduate studies in Executive Management from Emory University. She is a graduate from the 9th Huntsville/Madison County Leadership class as well as a graduate of Leadership Alabama. She is married to Jerrel McCollum, a retired Human Resource Development Specialist at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, and they are members of Madison Church of Christ.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, express special thanks and salute Ms. Cynthia McCollum for her dedicated service and untiring effort to make the Huntsville/Madison County area a better community. It is a pleasure to honor her during Black History Month, February 2013, acknowledging her being the first African American City Council Member/President Madison City Council and extend best wishes for continued success.*

ADOPTED this the 28th day of February, **2013**.

President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 28th day of February, **2013**.

Mayor of the City of
Huntsville, Alabama