

RESOLUTION NO. 13-139

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are pleased to recognize the Honorable Judge Martha Lynn Sherrod during Black History Month, 2013. She was the first African American elected to a county-wide seat in Madison County, Alabama. She served 23 plus years of judicial service as District Court Judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit before retiring January 2013; and,

WHEREAS, Martha Lynn Sherrod graduated Fisk University and the University of Houston (Texas) School of Law. She was the first person of African descent to win an at-large (partisan) election in North Alabama (2000), and was re-elected unchallenged for a six (6) year term on November 7, 2006. Judge Sherrod has served her community as Presiding Municipal Judge, Assistant District Attorney, private practitioner and taught Criminal Justice at Alabama A&M University. She developed the first Family Drug Court (a dependency court for substance abusing parents) in Alabama, and has added an Adult Drug Court (felony criminal offenders) and a Juvenile Drug Court to the specialty courts in Madison County, Alabama. As Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, she initiated and secured funding for the Madison County Juvenile Court Improvement Project. She served on the Chief Justice's Task Force on the development of drug courts statewide, and chaired the Juvenile/Dependency Drug Court Education Committee. She served on the State Juvenile Code Committee which resulted in the enactment of the Alabama Juvenile Justice Act of 2008, the District Court Rules Committee and the Committee on The Future of the Juvenile Court System. In response to an increase in traffic accidents involving young drivers, she has taken the defensive driving program into local high schools. She has developed the Lend An Ear Court Mentoring Program in Madison County, and was the first District Judge to offer mediation in Small Claims Court; and,

WHEREAS, as the 35th Chairperson of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, Judge Sherrod is currently editor of the newsletter and Historian. She has also served as past President of the Alabama Lawyers Association and Region XI Director of the National Bar Association. She formerly served on the Board of Trustees of Alabama A&M University where she was chairperson of the Academic Affairs Committee and Athletic Committee, and was named an Exemplary Trustee by the Southern Education Foundation (SEF) of Atlanta, Georgia. A charter member of the Ivy Center Foundation of Huntsville-Madison County, she has served on its Board of Directors since its incorporation in 2005. She is a founding member of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition (NAADPC), and serves on its executive committee; and,

WHEREAS, Judge Sherrod is a member of the American Inns of Court, the Alabama State Bar Association, the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association, the Alabama Lawyers Association, the Alabama District Judges Association, the Alabama Juvenile Judges Association and the American Bar Association. She is also a member of the National

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Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and National Association of Drug Court Professionals; and,

WHEREAS, she has received more than 100 awards, including Outstanding Achievement Award, Southeastern Regional Conference Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Milton K. Cummings Humanitarian Award, Community Action Partnership, the Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award and the Perry O. Ward Community Service Award. She has been named Citizen of the Year by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Worshipful Masters Council, and received unity awards from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship. Judge Sherrod is the 2006 recipient of the Governor's Award for Judicial Conservation, the 2010 Community Service Award from the Women's Economic Council and the Medallion of Service presented by Alabama A&M University. She is a graduate of Leadership Huntsville-Madison County and Leadership Alabama, and serves as Chairperson of the International Strategic Planning Committee for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is a member of the Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Inc., and the Huntsville Rotary Club; and,

WHEREAS, Judge Sherrod and her husband Eddie have three children, daughters Laura and Edlecia and son Eddie, Jr., and are active members of St. John AME Church where she serves as chairperson of the budget committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we express our appreciation to Honorable Judge Martha Lynn Sherrod for her devoted interest and many achievements in the betterment of the 23rd Judicial Circuit and the City of Huntsville, Alabama. We convey our heartiest congratulations by honoring her on this Black History Month, 2013.

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

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

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

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama