

RESOLUTION NO. 13-289

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that a park in Merrimack Mill Village will be named in honor of James J. Marek, Jr., for his numerous years of past and all future public service devoted to the Merrimack Mill Village neighborhood and the City of Huntsville, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Marek is married to Charlotte Marek. They are the proud parents of two sons, Chris and David Marek, and a daughter, Stephanie Schilling. He is a native of Chicago, Illinois, and in 1990, a job opportunity brought him to Huntsville from the Washington, D.C, area. He and his wife bought their home in Merrimack Mill Village during August of 2003; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Marek serves as Vice Chairman of the Preservation Commission, a member of the Beautification Board, a member of the Community Development Citizens Advisory Board, Chairman of the Historic Huntsville Foundation, and is a member of Huntsville Housing Authority's Affordable Housing Advisory Council. He also assisted in the development of the Huntsville Council of Neighborhood Associations, serving for two years as President of the association; and,

WHEREAS, in November 2006, Mr. Marek formed the Merrimack Mill Village Organization (MMVO) consisting of property owners in Merrimack Mill Village with the objectives being: preserve an integral part of the City of Huntsville's heritage - Merrimack Mill Village - one of the few remaining historic mill villages left in the State of Alabama, act as a voice for the interests of all the property owners in the village, help achieve a higher quality of life for those residing in the Village, help foster and maintain the beautification of individual property, the safety and security of homeowners, children, property, and to return the area to a family oriented community; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Marek established a Community Watch Program for the Merrimack Mill Village neighborhood and formed a Village Beautification Committee that organized periodic clean-up drives with community volunteers (Spring, Summer, & Fall), alley clean-up and maintenance with the City of Huntsville Green Team, and started a Yard-of-the-Month Program under sponsorship of a local nursery; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Marek initiated a Street Light Upgrade with the city obtaining 49 new street lights and 94 utility poles retrofitted with brighter sodium lights, sidewalk and curb repair projects with the Huntsville Public Works Department, and traffic calming projects with the Huntsville Engineering Department. He was successful having Merrimack Mill Village re-zoned from R2 (Single Family Dwellings and Duplexes) to R1B (Single Family Dwellings); and,

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WHEREAS, Mr. Marek worked with the Historic Huntsville Foundation to have Merrimack Mill Village listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, he designed and implemented a Home Historical Marker Program in recognition of the distinction and assisted the City of Huntsville's Traffic Engineering Department to provide historical district street signs in Merrimack Mill Village; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Marek established the Merrimack Cemetery Preservation Project. He obtained the listing of the cemetery on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register with the Alabama Historic Commission, initiated the First Annual Decoration Day for the cemetery, and assisted the City of Huntsville to secure a grant from the Alabama Historic Commission for repair of the cemetery's grave markers; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Marek initiated activities to promote awareness of Merrimack Mill Village and community spirit with a winter pot luck dinner, summer home tour, spring & fall block parties, and Christmas cookie exchange. He also established a Merrimack Mill Village Newsletter and Facebook page.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, do hereby recognize and gratefully acknowledge James J. Marek, Jr. for his many years of public service devoted to the Merrimack Mill Village neighborhood and the City of Huntsville, Alabama. May every success be yours in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the _____ day of _____, 2013.

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

APPROVED this the _____ day of _____, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

