

RESOLUTION NO. 13-504

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that Huntsville Fire Chief Michael K. Sublett retired effective April 1, 2013, after an admirable 38-year career with the City of Huntsville Fire and Rescue Department; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Sublett began his service to the Huntsville Fire and Rescue Department in 1975 as a firefighter under Mayor Joe Davis continuing his advancement under Mayor Steve Hettinger, Mayor Loretta Spencer and Mayor Tommy Battle. During his career, Mike rose through the Fire Department ranks of FireFighter, Fire Driver-Engineer, Fire Inspector/Investigator and Fire Captain. He then served as the Division Chief of Public Relations and Communications, was promoted to Deputy Chief and appointed as Fire Chief in 2009; and,

WHEREAS, among Chief Sublett's many achievements, communication of policies and procedures within the department were significantly improved by implementing a document management system through which the process of updating the department's policies and procedures is being digitized. He also established Heavy Rescue and High Angle Rescue Teams and completed the construction of Fire Stations #1, #7 and #18. He applied and received grant funds for the hiring of 24 firefighters to staff Fire Station #18 and the hiring of 18 firefighters to staff Fire Station #19; and,

WHEREAS, he maintained the City of Huntsville's 3/9 Public Protection Classification through an Insurance Service Office audit in 2011. This rating system determines the cost of homeowners' insurance for the citizens of Huntsville. He obtained a grant in the amount of \$822,490.00 to fund the purchase of new APC025 compliant radios, which provided interoperable communications with many other agencies. The Department also received a grant in the amount of \$560,000.00 to fund the purchase and installation of fixed-station emergency power generators that insure Huntsville Fire Stations are operational during power outages. He completed the design and construction of replacement fire apparatus serving Ladder 12, Engine 12, Engine 8 and Engine 15. During his career, the Fire Department's Honor Guard, Fire Explorer Program and quartet "Fahrenheit" were established; and,

WHEREAS, he recognized the need to enhance fire safety education for children, and had plans drawn for building a permanent 900-square-foot structure for children to go through to make fire safety classes more realistic. He solicited donations from businesses to buy the building materials, and the house was built by firefighters and other volunteers. It continues to be used to educate children today; and,

WHEREAS, in 1998, he was selected News Contact Person of the Year by the Huntsville Press Club; in 2001, he received the National Society of the American Revolution Fire Safety Accommodation Award, was selected Huntsville Fire and Rescue Firefighter of the Year and received the City of Huntsville Employee 1st Quarter Incentive; in

2003, he was chosen Firefighter of the Year by The Alabama Alarm Association; and in 2011 and 2012, served as President of The North Alabama Fire Chiefs Association; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Sublett believes his best accomplishment while being a Firefighter was saving his father's life when a tractor overturned pinning his father underneath with the wheel pressing on his chest. Using skills learned in his firefighting training, he removed the tractor from his father and administered CPR until help arrived. Due to his knowledge and quick actions, his father later regained consciousness, recovered from his life-threatening injuries and lived another 17 years; and,

WHEREAS, during the summer season for approximately 11 years, Mike could be found at the ball field coaching Sportsmed Women's and Girl's Slow-Pitch Softball, holding the honor of winning 11 national championships and the team playing all over the United States. He was also instrumental in helping some of his team players acquire junior college scholarships; and

WHEREAS, very dear to Mike's heart are mentally and physically challenged children and adults. He organized many events through the Fire Department for these individuals, and played Santa Claus several years, going to The Women's and Children's Hospital on Christmas Day accompanied by fellow Firefighters to distribute gifts. He continued to buy gifts for special ones of these individuals with his personal funds years after meeting them, and personally made certain they were delivered in time for Christmas; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Sublett served in the United States Army Alabama National Guard from June 1971 until 1978; and

WHEREAS, Chief Sublett is the son of Orien and Neida Sublett, deceased, has one older brother, Larry Sublett, and twin sister, Marilyn Harbin; and

WHEREAS, Chief Sublett is married to his wife of 42 years, the former Ann Key, and they have two adult children, Jason and Jennifer. Jason is employed by Country Financial Insurance Company as a Financial Representative, and Jennifer is an elementary school teacher at Hazel Green Elementary School and married to Walter Drysdale. Walter and Jennifer have presented Mike and Ann with four precious grandchildren: Grandson Walter Michael, age 4, granddaughters Bella Grace, age 2, Annelise Faith, age 17 months, and Lillian Kate

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(Lillie), age 4 months. Of all the titles Mike has held during his career, he most cherishes the one given him by the grandchildren who call him 'Poppy.'

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we express appreciation for the many years of public service and the significant accomplishments of Huntsville Fire Chief Michael K. Sublett. We wish him all the pleasures of a happy and healthy retirement, and the very best in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 11th day of July, 2013.

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

APPROVED this the 11th day of July, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama