

## RESOLUTION NO. 13-506

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that the 17<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Burwell/Strong Family Reunion, theme "Reclaiming Our Roots," will be held July 12-14, 2013, in Huntsville, Alabama; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Embassy Suites hotel in Huntsville, Alabama, will serve as the host hotel for the reunion, and Saturday evening activities will be held at the Clift's Cove Clubhouse in Madison, Alabama. On Sunday, worship services will be held at the Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Burwell family got their name from Dr. James William Burwell, a slave master, who in 1844 bought Jim Burwell and moved him along with his family from east of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Caroline County, Virginia, to the foot hills of the Appalachian Mountains in North Alabama to settle in Madison County. Jim was the earliest ancestor of the present Burwell family; and,

**WHEREAS**, Jim Burwell married a slave woman named Rena. Several sons and one daughter were born to this union. Their sons were: Dock, George, Ned, Richard, Napoleon Bonaparte and Jim, Jr. The daughter was named Rena, after their mother. George had two daughters, Annie and Lou, and one son, Willie. Richard had one daughter, Fannie. Napoleon Bonaparte had two sons, Henry and Ed, and Dock had one daughter, Charlotte. None of the persons of the old stock are still here with us; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Strong family assumed their surname in the same way as all of the slaves' surnames were derived from their masters. Eliza Strong, a slave, was owned by Bob Strong. She had a son, Jeff Strong, who was married to Eveline. Their union was blessed with one son, Thornton, and three daughters, Lucy, Eveline and Agnes. Thornton had two daughters, Mollie and Bettie, and one son Willie. Eveline had two sons, Jeff and Henry and one daughter, Mary Agnes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Jim Burwell and Agnes Strong married and were the proud parents of fifteen children. Nine of these children lived to become adults. There were five sons: Houston, Jeff, Dock, Robert and Walter, and four daughters: Jannie, Bessie, Lucy and Ned. Jim Burwell was also the father of four children: William Henry, Ike, Fannie and James Willie. March 5, 1984 marked the end of this particular generation of the Burwell's with the home going of Reverend Walter H. Burwell, the youngest child of Jim and Agnes Burwell; and,

**WHEREAS**, the descendants of Jim and Agnes have excelled in multiple facets of life. Among them are many educators, lawyers, nurses, doctors, ministers, business/office managers, farmers, computer scientists, analysts, musicians, technicians, entrepreneurs and many other professions in this family.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, wish to congratulate the Burwell and Strong families on the occasion of their 17<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Reunion, and wish them much success in all future endeavors and safe travels home.

**ADOPTED** on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

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

**APPROVED** on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

