

RESOLUTION NO. 13-918

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that on August 3, 1990, President George W. Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. The bill authorized and requested President Bush to call upon Federal, State and local Governments, groups and organizations along with the people of the United States to observe this commemorative month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities. The bill passed the House and the Presidential Proclamation signed into law on November 14, 1990. This was a landmark bill honoring America's Tribal people; and,

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2013, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation designating November 2013 as National Native American Heritage Month and to celebrate November 29, 2013, as Native American Heritage Day; and,

WHEREAS, Native American Indians are the descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous and native people who were the original inhabitants of the United States. They have endured a painful history of violence, rejection, broken promises and upended justice. There was a time when Native languages and religions were banned as part of a forced assimilation policy that attacked the political, social and cultural identities of Native Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the area that now encompasses the Great State of Alabama and the area which is now Huntsville was once the homeland and tribal hunting grounds of a number of Native American Indians who had a great attachment to the land and did staunchly defend their right to live, hunt and draw nourishment from that land; and,

WHEREAS, in times of earliest contact with the white man, the Valley Region of the Tennessee River and its tributaries were known to be the home of the Yuchi, the Mesopelea, the Kaskinampo, the Chikamaka, the Chiaha, the Hitchiti, the Koasati, the Tuskegee, the Muscogee (Creek), the Chickasaw, the Alabama, the Napochi, the Tomahitan and the Shawnee Tribes. The evidence of early occupation in the same region is exhibited by names of historic Indian towns. Tribes in the eastern region of the state of Alabama were later conquered by the Cherokee Tribe, who, in many cases, kept the same town names established by earlier tribes and claimed Northern Alabama as their territorial hunting ground; and,

WHEREAS, Native American Indians have volunteered to serve in the United States Armed Forces and served with valor in all of the Nation's military actions from the Revolutionary War through the present day. In most of those actions, more American Indians served in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans; and,

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WHEREAS, Native American Indians have made distinct and significant contributions to Alabama, the United States and rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language and art. Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders and scholars; and,

WHEREAS, recognition of the contributions Native American Indians have made to the structure of American society will provide an opportunity for all Alabamians to demonstrate their respect and admiration of Native American Indians for their important contributions to the political, cultural and economic life of Alabama and the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that American Indians should be honored and recognized for strengthening the diversity of our society. National Native American Heritage Month serves as a valuable opportunity for native voices to be heard and appreciated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that the month of November 2013 be designated as National Native American Heritage Month in Huntsville and encourage all residents of Huntsville to observe November 29, 2013, as Native American Heritage Day.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, hereby order that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting.

ADOPTED on this the 21st day of Novmber, 2013.

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

APPROVED on this the 21st day of November, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

