

RESOLUTION NO. 14-134

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Fire Marshal Joe L. Jordan will retire after 38 years of dedicated service to the Huntsville Fire Department to be effective March 1, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, Joe has been employed with the City of Huntsville since 1975. During that time, he has served as a professional Firefighter, Driver-Engineer and Fire Prevention/Investigation Officer for Huntsville Fire and Rescue. He also retired from the U.S. Naval Reserves, after 20 years of service; and,

WHEREAS, Joe was the first African American to hold the rank and position of Fire Marshal for the City of Huntsville, Alabama. He was appointed Fire Marshal in 1995 by Mayor Steve Hettinger, and has remained in that position for over 19 years; and,

WHEREAS, he served on the Firefighter Interview Committee for the hiring of approximately 230 Firefighters, of which approximately 40 were minorities. In 38 years, 11 months and 7 days his total job duties encompassed the following: Firefighter, Driver Engineer, Roster Fire Captain as needed, Fire Marshal, Counselor, Religious Analyst, Father, Brother and Friend for all those who have solicited his assistance as needed or required; and,

WHEREAS, his educational background includes: Th.D., Doctor of Theology, Andersonville Theological Seminary; M.R.E., Master of Religious Education, Andersonville Theological Seminary; B.S., Management, Alabama A&M University; A.S., Fire Science, Calhoun Community College; A.S., Business Administration, Faulkner University; and A.S., Accounting, Alverson Draughon Business College; and,

WHEREAS, Joe is married to Joyce A. Love-Jordan, and to this union one son Gerald and two daughters Charlotte and Lawanda were born. They have also been blessed with a second generation of grandchildren: Alethia, Kendall, Hakeem & Jayden; and,

WHEREAS, Fire Marshal Jordan is very active in the community and is a member of the following organizations: Masonic Lodge (Master Mason); Tennessee Valley Consistory, 32nd Degree Mason; Imperial Council, Alzahar Shriner Temple #169; Superintendent of Sunday School, Union Hill C.P. Church; Ordained Elder, Union Hill C.P. Church; Delta Mu Delta Alpha Sigma Honor Society; and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; and,

WHEREAS, one of his accomplishments was receipt of certification from the Bureau of Fire Prevention, state and nationally, for Fire Prevention and Fire Investigation for all personnel of the agency. Huntsville was one of the top rated departments in the state of Alabama; and,

WHEREAS , the Bureau of Fire Prevention pilot program was one of the first programs for Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention in the City of Huntsville, Alabama, where individuals were educated to the danger and hazards of fire. The City of Huntsville, Alabama, has received several recognitions for low rates of fire fatalities for a city the size of Huntsville, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the following poem entitled, "The Unknown Fear," was written by Fire Marshal Joe Jordan: "Fear can best be defined as an anticipation of danger, anxiety, or to be frightful. Therefore, this question can only be answered from within yourself; That question is as stated: Are you afraid that I am going to treat you as you have treated me? Then I say to you have no fear; for I am here as the result of a blessing unmerited given to me by God, because of his love and mercy; When God gives you a blessing, use it in order that someone else may also be blessed; So for that reason, I give God the highest praise, honor and glory. So fear not, nor be afraid, for it would not please God if I treated you like you have treated me."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we express our appreciation to Fire Marshal Joe L. Jordan for his long career with Huntsville Fire and Rescue, and his many accomplishments for the betterment of the department and our city. We congratulate him upon his retirement, and extend every good wish in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 27th day of February, 2014.

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

APPROVED this the 27th day of February, 2014.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama