

RESOLUTION NO. 14-

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville are apprised of the passing of William Myers Johnson, 85, of Huntsville on Sunday morning, February 2, 2014. Funeral services were held Friday, February 7th at 12:00 noon at First Missionary Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating minister; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was a native of Columbia, Tennessee. He attended Tennessee A&I University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1951 and a Master of Science degree in 1953. During his educational tenure at Tennessee A&I, he was involved in teaching in the Poultry Science area; and,

WHEREAS, in 1961, he joined Alabama A&M University as an Assistant Professor of Poultry Science, a position which he held for 17 years. During that time, he completed further study at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, and was promoted to Associate Professor. In 1978, he was appointed Director of the Physical Plant where he served until 1992. At that time, he returned to his former position as Associate Professor of Animal Science and Director of Poultry Science until he retired January 1, 1997. In October 2000, he returned to A&M in the position of Director of the Physical Plant, and later retired from Alabama A & M University as Director of Physical Facilities with 43 years of dedicated service; and,

WHEREAS, in July of 1990, Mr. Johnson was appointed by the Huntsville City Council to serve on the Huntsville Gas and Water Boards. On July 25, 1995, he became only the second chairman in the 41-year history of the boards, and the first African American elected to that position; and,

WHEREAS, major accomplishments were made by the Huntsville Gas and Water Boards during his tenure. The boards oversaw growth of both systems with the water system now being the second largest in the state and the gas system is in the top 15 public gas systems in the nation. Mr. Johnson was involved in the planning and decision to purchase property for the new water plant near Guntersville Dam that will provide clean, safe, plentiful water for generations to come. To improve customer service, an apprenticeship program was implemented to develop better trained employees. He focused on facilities and equipment and wanted them clean and presentable as an indication of Huntsville Utilities putting its best foot forward. He was always an advocate for the customer and the employees to make certain Huntsville Utilities did the right thing for all. He continued to be a dedicated and dependable board member until his death; and,

WHEREAS, he was married to the late Doris A. Grimes Johnson, and they had three cherished daughters: Melanie Davis (Stephen) of Florissant, Missouri, Carmeleita Winburn (Jesse) of Madison, Alabama and Bridget O. Johnson of Redford, Michigan; three grandchildren:

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Mario Winburn of Cockeysville, Maryland, Noah Winburn (Brandi) of Madison, Alabama, and Breanna Davis of Florissant, Missouri.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we express our grateful appreciation to William Meyers Johnson for his many years of service to the citizens of Huntsville. We acknowledge the stamina, character and responsibility he displayed to make Huntsville a better place for all our citizens to live.

ADOPTED this the 13th day of March, 2014.

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

APPROVED this the 13th day of March, 2014.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama