

RESOLUTION NO. 14-661

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Dr. Paul B. Ruffin will be the recipient of the Inspiring Young Minds To Succeed STEM Award during the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc. Third Annual Scholarship Gala to be held in the Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on September 25, 2014. The theme for the Gala is "Changing the Paradigm: Educational Excellence Through STEM; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Paul Ruffin is nationally known and recognized as a physicist, researcher and scientist in the fields of fiber optics, MEMS, and nanotechnology. He earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Alabama A&M University in 1977. To continue his quest for advanced degrees in Physics, he earned the Master of Science in 1982 and the Doctorate of Philosophy in 1986 from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. When he earned his graduates degrees in Physics, he made Alabama history as the first African American to earn advanced degrees in Physics. As a servant leader with a willing desire to minister to and help others, he pursued and earned the Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care and Ministry from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology; and,

WHEREAS, in May 1977, he began his professional career in industry as an associate member of the technical staff at Dynetics, Incorporated. In 1982, he accepted employment with the United States Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal. During Dr. Ruffin's tenure as a civilian employee with the government, he served in several supervisory positions and professionally progressed to a Senior Research Scientist (ST), one of only 40 positions within the U.S. Army civilian workforce. As a ST, he served as the Army's Senior Research Scientist for Micro-Sensors and Systems, United States Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC). In that position, he provided technical leadership and direction for research and development programs in the areas of micro and nanometer scale technologies to achieve improvements in system performance over military environments, reduction in weapons components size and cost, and enhanced reliability. In March 2013, Dr. Ruffin retired from AMRDEC after serving and providing over 32 years of dedicated service as a civilian government employee. Currently, he is employed as a Senior Research Professor in the Department of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics of the College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences at Alabama A&M University; and,

WHEREAS, a recipient of scores of awards, honors, plaques and citations in recognition of his notable professional achievements and community service, Dr. Ruffin is a prolific researcher. He has conducted research in fiber optics, MEMS, and nanotechnology resulting in eight patents, seven book publications, and countless peer-reviewed journal articles. Additionally, his fiber-winding patent solved the 20-year-old problem associated with adverse temperature on Fiber Optics Gyroscopes (FOGs) performance. He holds membership in numerous professional organizations and scientific societies; and,

RESOLUTION NO. 14-661

Dr. Paul B. Ruffin
September 11, 2014
Page 2

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruffin is an advocate for community and educational outreach. As the director of the Dr. Paul B. Ruffin Math Tutoring Academy, he has helped Huntsville public housing students overcome their fear of mathematics and science courses. Moreover, he has conducted lectures and seminars to educate and motivate high school and college students to consider STEM disciplines as a career choice. He has served as a mentor for numerous students participating in the Science Engineering Apprentice Program (SEAP). Several of his mentees have earned college degrees in STEM disciplines. Additionally, Dr. Ruffin pastors the Forge Temple Church of God in Christ in Birmingham, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruffin is married to Vetrea Slack Ruffin, and they are the proud parents of two daughters (Lacretia Ruffin Conaway and Angelica Ruffin), and the grandparents of three lovely grandchildren (Jared, Victoria and Kellen II).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, recognize and commend Dr. Paul B. Ruffin as the Inspiring Young Minds To Succeed STEM Awardee. We gratefully acknowledge and congratulate the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc. on their Third Annual Scholarship Gala, and extend best wishes for continued success.

ADOPTED this the 11th day of September, 2014.

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

APPROVED this the 11th day of September, 2014.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama