

RESOLUTION NO. 14-664

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised of the Councill Training School Reunion, 1948-1970, which was held August 22-24, 2014, at the Von Braun Center. The theme was "Celebrating Our CTS Legacy" and the many activities were enjoyed by classmates, faculty and staff as an unforgettable, exciting, entertaining and memorable weekend; and,

WHEREAS, in the early 1900s, Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears Roebuck and Company, became interested in the welfare and education of the Negro. He was attracted to Booker T. Washington and his philosophy of black self-help and the Tuskegee Institute's industrial education program. In 1913, there was \$2,100 left from the Tuskegee project and Mr. Rosenwald was persuaded to give the unused funds as grants to Negro communities that wanted to build rural elementary schools; and,

WHEREAS, Councill Training School brought about a change in education for Negroes in Madison County. Prior to the establishment of Councill, many black children didn't acquire much schooling. Small neighborhood schools housed in churches and lodge halls were the only sources of formal education available to Negroes. Some communities did not have schools at all and those that did had very short terms lasting from two to four months. Instructors who had completed high school were considered well qualified teachers, and some teachers were hired with less than a high school education. Despite the inequities of salaries and poor teaching and learning conditions, the responsibilities of the Negro educator were great, classroom instruction was superior and the lessons of life were lasting; and,

WHEREAS, Councill Training School was built in 1919 with local funds and supplemented with a Rosenwald Foundation grant. Grades 1-6 were taught in the white frame structure situated northwest of Alabama A&M University's Palmer Hall. As enrollment increased, the storage room was converted into a third classroom. Grades were combined, 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6. The curriculum was limited to the basic courses of reading, English, arithmetic, history and science. The school was named for William Hooper Councill, founder of Alabama A&M University; and,

WHEREAS, changes in the school facility, teacher requirements, curriculum and salaries varied only slightly from 1927 to 1948. Councill Training opened as the first public high school for Negro students in Madison County in 1948 with an enrollment of 600 students, and in 1949, Councill graduated its first class of 52 student; and,

WHEREAS, in 1952, Councill was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Charles Orr, the first principal of this new school, served from 1948 through 1953. As the

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community economy rapidly shifted from basic agriculture to business and technology in the '60s, more changes were made at the now famous Councill Training School; and,

WHEREAS, following Dr. Orr, Mr. J. H. Richards became principal and served from 1953 through 1959. During that era, Councill set outstanding and impressive records in athletics with championship football and basketball teams. Other special activities continued to flourish and enrollment increased as did the faculty and staff. The band and choral programs brought honor and special commendations to Councill. Under the leadership of Mr. A. G. Adams from 1959 to 1970, the school maintained a strong academic program and was highly competitive in athletics. Programs in football, basketball and track brought much recognition. In 1962, five additional classrooms were added, the enrollment increased from 600 to more than 950 and the faculty increased from 22 to 32; and,

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 affected the future of the school. As black students attended neighborhood schools due to integration, enrollment declined. In 1968, the 1-12 school became a senior high school limited to grades 10-12 and the school became Councill Senior High. The school closed in 1970, and the teachers were transferred to other county schools; and,

WHEREAS, from its humble beginnings, Councill Training School was built on responsibility, courage, compassion, loyalty, honesty, friendship, persistence, hard work, self-discipline and faith. These traits are recognized as essentials of excellence for character development. Councill graduates have chosen many walks of life and have made significant contributions to their families, community and nation. The history of Councill Training School has been an anchor in holding fast to our culture, history and many traditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we acknowledge Councill Training School which grew to inspire confidence in its students and enabled them to secure their roles in the ever-changing public and private areas of our world. We honor the former Councill Training School

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faculty and staff, those nurturing men and women who left a legacy of self-discipline, courage, unity and honesty.

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