

RESOLUTION No. 15-132

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mother Pinkie High will be honored for her active volunteerism in the local community during the "2015 Honoring Our Elders Celebration" sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation held at the Jackson Center on March 14, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Rosetta James Foundation was founded in December 2006. It is a 509 (a) (2) Public Charity and educational organization founded for the sole purposes of providing scholarships to deserving students and recognizing the contributions of the elderly in the community while promoting volunteerism and community outreach; and,

WHEREAS, the Foundation's famous "Honoring Our Elders Celebration" is named in honor of Mrs. Rosetta James, a native of Akron, Alabama, in recognition of her outstanding and extraordinary dedication and service to many communities by way of active citizenship. Mrs. James has been determined to seek and search for ways to serve the underserved, minister to the incarcerated, register citizens to vote, provide for the poor and assure hope for the hopeless throughout Huntsville-Madison County for more than 30 years, and continues to be an exemplar of servant citizenship; and,

WHEREAS, Mother Pinkie High possesses a passion that was first instilled in her when she decided to do whatever she could to improve the lives of others. As time progressed, "helping others" became her life's mission. Mother Pinkie High has always thought of others, which kept her involved in church, outreach and longtime community volunteerism; and,

WHEREAS, a native of New Market, Alabama, she was born to the late George and Emma Petty, the eldest of 10 siblings. Assisting with various responsibilities and household demands for a large family helped her to develop both leadership and organizational skills. Additionally, she enjoyed 60 years of marriage to the late Alphonso "Boots" High and nurtured 10 children with the love of Christ and disciplined them with care and wisdom; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. High is a proud member of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church of 80 years, where she served on several committees, such as youth choir director and the Usher and Mothers' Board. Born into the heart of Mother High is a strong commitment and dedication to take a group of 20 young women and make disciples for Christ through missionary work. Because of this desire, the church's Matrons organization was born into existence. Through this group, she was allowed an opportunity to train the young members with outreach activities to better the community through service and fundraising efforts. Member bonding continued with the participation in and the making of floats for local parades (20 years) and winning first place awards on at least six occasions; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. High's most enduring roles came from positions she simply took on. For instance, the original church had been constructed around a central log cabin that was built before the Civil War. It desperately needed replacing. Church leaders looked for numerous ways to fund this new endeavor. Mother High came up with a wonderful fundraiser called a "block rally," which was more than a successful event. The now modern structure houses the congregation of about 700 people; and,

WHEREAS, as a way of giving back to the community, volunteering was most valuable to her, including working the food bank, as well as organizing and delivering food boxes. She spent months of her time working for Christmas Charity, making it possible for families to receive gifts and clothing. Her prison ministry consisted of feeding inmates during the holiday season in her home, as if they were her family. Moreover, Mother High proudly took on the need for visiting and caring for the sick at nursing homes, planning trips and daily activities for senior citizens and organizing political activities for Councilman Richard Showers. These longtime community volunteer efforts led to opportunities to meet and engage with many people in surrounding areas; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the course of her active life, Mother High has traveled to more than 15 countries including Aruba, Greece, Honduras, Jamaica, Israel, Italy, Turkey and many others. She has received numerous honors, awards and distinctions, ranging from Outstanding Leadership to Mother of the Year to Oldest Living Member. She also has been blessed with 29 grandchildren, 129 great-grandchildren and 69 great-great-grandchildren.

RESOLUTION No. 15-132

Mother Pinkie High

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Mother Pinkie High and the Rosetta James Foundation, and extend best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 12th day of March, 2015.

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

APPROVED this the 12th day of March, 2015.

Mayor of the City of
Huntsville, Alabama