

## **RESOLUTION NO. 15-747**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Elder Bernard C. Yates will be the guest speaker at the Mallard Creek Primitive Baptist Association's 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session, to be held October 22-25, 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, Elder Yates is a native of Mobile, Alabama. He was "Raised in the Faith," in the fear and admonition of the Lord by the late Deacon Robert L. Yates, Sr., and Mother Maggie Bumpers Yates. He is the youngest of 10 siblings, five of whom are preacher-pastors. He accepted the Lord Jesus Christ at an early age and was baptized at the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama, under the leadership of the late Dr. Terry M. Batts, Sr.; and,

**WHEREAS**, Elder Yates accepted God's calling on his life and was licensed to preach on March 31, 1974, under the tutelage of Dr. Forest L. Livingston at the Greater St. John Primitive Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas. He is a product of Bishop College in Dallas. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry and a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies from Liberty Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia. He was bestowed an Honorius Couise from St. Thomas College of Jacksonville, Florida. He assumed the role of Pastor at the age of 19 at the Mt. Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church of Waxahachie, Texas, where he served for nine and a half years. It was there that he met and married his wife of more than 33 years, the former Vonda Elaine Allen. To that union LaBrea Charnelle Yates was born; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1985, the couple journeyed to Pensacola, Florida, as Elder Yates took up the mantle of leadership as pastor of the Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church where he has served willingly, wisely and well for more than 28 years. He led in the renovation of the present edifice and in the construction of the Center of Hope, a 49,000 square foot multi-purpose facility with a gymnasium/auditorium; and,

**WHEREAS**, as pastor of Zion Hope, Elder Yates has experienced rich and lavish growth in ministry and wonderful fellowship both personally and corporately. This year, Pastor Yates celebrates 30 years of service to the body of believers of Zion Hope Church and 41 years as a preacher of the gospel. Service on every level has been his lot. He has led in outreach both through the church and the community--building lives for the kingdom of God. A son of the Primitive Baptist Church, Elder Bernard C. Yates was elected the 13th president of the National Primitive Baptist Convention in August 2011 and re-elected for a second term in 2014. He previously served the convention as vice-president for six years. He is the immediate past Bible Expositor for the Florida State

Primitive Baptist. He also serves as Moderator of the Mt. Zion West Florida/Alabama/Louisiana District Association; and,

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**WHEREAS**, Apostle Paul emphatically asserts “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” (I Corinthians 2:5). Elder Yates attributes all his accomplishments to God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly, above, all that we can ask or think according to the power that worketh in us. To God be the Glory for the things He has done.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge, congratulate, and extend best wishes to Elder Bernard C. Yates. May you have continued success in all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015.

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

**APPROVED** this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama