

RESOLUTION No. 16-2

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr. will be the guest speaker at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast, to be held January 18, 2016, at the Von Braun Center North Hall; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Wright Lassiter, Jr. has more than five decades of experience as an educator and administrator in higher education. He served as College Business Officer at Tuskegee University, Vice President of Finance and Management at Morgan State University, and President of Schenectady County Community College, Bishop College, and El Centro College; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Chancellor of the seven-college Dallas County Community College District from 2006 - 2014. Upon his retirement in 2014, he was named Chancellor Emeritus; and,

WHEREAS, teaching has been an essential aspect of his professional life. He is now an adjunct professor of leadership studies and ethics at Dallas Baptist University. He also teaches at both the master's and doctoral levels and was named a Master Educator by the University of Texas at Austin; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter holds degrees from Alcorn State University, Indiana University/Bloomington, Auburn University and Andersonville Theological Seminary. He engaged in post-doctoral studies at Princeton University and Oxford University; and,

WHEREAS, he has held two presidential appointments; He was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the White House Commission on Minority Business Development. The Commission crafted the term "historically under-utilized business" during its period of service. President George W. Bush appointed him to the National Endowment for Humanities following a six-year term on the Board of Directors of Texas Council on the Humanities; and,

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WHEREAS, he has published thirteen books, monographs, and collections of speeches and sermons. He is an ordained Baptist minister. He and his late wife were married for fifty-five years, with one son, one daughter, and two granddaughters-college students at Texas A&M University and Northeastern University; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and a forty- one year member of Sigma Pi Phi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He was inducted into the Delta Kappa Chapter at Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College, now Alcorn State University, in 1953, where he served as Chapter President. He is the recipient of numerous Alpha Phi Alpha awards, the most recent being recipient of the 2014 Trail Blazer Award by Alpha Sigma Lambda chapter in recognition of continued support of the community, dedication and service to all citizens with the aim of a better future and belief in a strong way of life. He was also the recipient of the 60-year service award from national headquarters.

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 Dr. Wright Lassiter, Jr. in recognition of being the guest speaker for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast. May you have continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 14th day of January, 2016.

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

APPROVED this the 14th day of January, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama