

RESOLUTION No. 16-183

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mr. Freeman Holifield, Sr. will be honored for his active volunteerism in the local community during the "2016 Honoring Our Elders Celebration" sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation, held at the Jackson Center on March 12, 2016; 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 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 the past 35 years, and continues to be an exemplar of servant citizenship; and,

WHEREAS, Freeman Holifield, Sr., retired in 1998 from the U.S. Missile Munitions Center and School, Redstone Arsenal, as Supervisory Instructional/Educational Systems Specialist (Emeritus). He received the Commander's Award (1983) for his outstanding managerial and supervisory accomplishments; and,

WHEREAS, one of six children born in Bessemer, Alabama, to the late Fred B. Holifield, Sr., and Essie L. Holifield, he attended Dunbar High School and then joined the U.S. Army, where he proudly served as an Administrative Specialist, both stateside and in Korea. Upon receiving his Honorable Discharge in 1962, he pursued and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) in 1966 and completed his Master's degree in Education Administration and Supervision in 1972 while working full-time; and,

WHEREAS, during the early 1960s, the modern Civil Rights Movement was bringing about great social change in the U.S. and change was coming to Huntsville, Alabama, as well. In late 1964, Holifield became the first African-American police officer to be promoted to the position of Traffic Officer in the elite Traffic Division. Within a few months, he trained and was promoted as the first Black motorcycle officer; and,

WHEREAS, after leaving the Huntsville Police Department in 1966, he began a new career with the U.S. Ordnance Missile & Munitions Center and School (USAOMMCS) at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, as an electronics instructor. The Civil Rights Movement had extended to Redstone Arsenal, and minorities were employed to work in many of the different agencies. Desegregation was difficult, but over the years many minorities who faced

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the hardship of working in a hostile environment became outstanding employees; and,

WHEREAS, during his 33 years of employment with the federal government, Holifield held numerous positions at USAOMMCS: He served as a training instructor/developer in missile electronics. He was the first developer to complete a course of instructions under the new guidelines of Systems Engineering. Throughout his career with USAOMMCS, he also served two tours overseas in West Germany. Upon his return from the second tour to USAOMMCS in 1983, he was assigned as a Senior Evaluator, and later promoted to the first black Supervisor as Chief of Internal Evaluation Division at USAOMMCS, served as Acting Director, Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization and Chief of Staff and Faculty Development Division at USAOMMCS; and,

WHEREAS, Holifield has been affiliated with numerous organizations in the communities. Over the years, he has been recognized for his job-related duties, as well as for his volunteer work. He and the late Charles Winslow were the host and co-host of "Talkfest," a community affairs talk show that aired on WAFF-TV 48 (NBC) for 14 years. He has headed the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc.; the Alabama A&M University Community Resource Group; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (#292), Past Basileuis (3 times) of Xi Omicron Chapter; Ancient Egyptian Arabic Nobles of Mystic Shrine (AEANOMS); Honorary Past Imperial Potentate; Past Imperial Deputy of Desert Alabama; Past Imperial Deputy of Oasis Huntsville; Past Potentate Al Azhar Temple 195; Past President of Deep South Shriners; and many others; and,

WHEREAS, married to the former Janie Adams of Sheffield, Alabama, his union has been with two children, Dr. Quintaniay Holifield of Baltimore, Maryland, and Lt. Colonel Freeman Holifield, Jr., Kessler AFB, Mississippi. He is also the proud grandfather of Freeman Holifield, III.

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

ADOPTED this the 10th day of March, 2016.

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

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APPROVED this the 10th day of March, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama