

**RESOLUTION No. 16-438**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that the life of Ronald Gene Childress, Jr. will be honored during his home going ceremony to be held at Union Chapel M. B. Church on Saturday, June 25, 2016; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ronald Gene Childress, Jr. made his grand entrance into the world on April 13, 1982. The four-pound bundle of joy was his father's pride and his mother's little Hershey chocolate drop. He shared his childhood with his sisters, Dineesha and Jayna, who he loved dearly, as well as a host of aunts, uncles and cousins; and,

**WHEREAS**, those who knew Hershey intimately were keenly aware of his love for family and also knew he shared a very special bond with his mother, Sherry Woodard Childress. Many of his friends and teachers saw her day in and day out at his school. She even sat with him in class to ensure that he was behaving and doing his work. She, along with his grandmother (Alma Woodard) volunteered in the schools' first-aid rooms to keep a watchful eye on him and his other cousins. Sherry became a permanent fixture in his school-life all the way through high school, sports endeavors and his other extracurricular activities. He never had an opportunity to get out of line; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a man of faith, Ronald understood the importance of living a life that was pleasing to God. He was committed to being about God's business and service to all mankind. He possessed a gift for impacting the lives of others with a kind word, a thought-provoking statement or a message of encouragement; and,

**WHEREAS**, Hershey accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of 10 and was baptized by Reverend Leroy Cole at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in 1992. His love of music began to take form as he sung in the church choir; and,

**WHEREAS**, as an adult, he joined Fellowship of Faith Church and was baptized by Pastor Troy Garner to express his reaffirmed love and conviction for his Lord and Savior. He became an active member, advisor, and friend to all. Ron faithfully served at Fellowship of Faith until his transition; and,

**WHEREAS**, Hershey possessed a passion for education, as he graduated from Buckhorn High School in 2000 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Alabama A&M University in 2007. He inherited his father's keen business acumen, drive and work ethic. No matter the circumstances of life, Hershey always had his mind set on business and success. While studying accounting at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, he founded Cellular Evolutions, an AT&T franchise along with his Uncle Nick Woodard. Hershey's other eminent roles included: founding Childress Enterprises, LLC, an investment and retail company; Nadiade Emage Inc., an apparel manufacturing and distribution

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company; and serving as Vice President of Artistic Freedom, a music production company. He also served as the operations manager for the family business, Childress Accounting, LLC; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ronald believed that his purpose was to serve God and be the best business man and family man he could be. In 2010, Hershey met his help- mate, Tiffany Hawthorne. What began as a blind date, blossomed into a match made in Heaven. On August 29, 2014, Hershey made his intentions known as he proposed to Tiffany. Of course, in true Hershey style, he serenaded her with an original song he wrote entitled Where Would I Be. On October 10, 2015, Hershey and Tiffany exchanged vows during a ceremony taken from the pages of a fairy tale, as they sealed their love for each other before God, family and friends; and,

**WHEREAS**, Hershey's passion for people and commitment to community allowed him to inspire, motivate and change the lives of everyone he encountered -- he never met a stranger. He was the founder of Teaching is Reaching Foundation for Entrepreneurship, which targets youth in Huntsville through communication, creativity and leadership. Ronald was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Boys and Girls Club of North Alabama advisory board; and,

**WHEREAS**, Hershey's love for music and his melodious voice inspired him to pen lyrics, play the piano and keyboard, as well as sing; and,

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, June 17, 2016, Ronald transitioned to his eternal reward. He was faithful to the end; Now laid up for him is a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, gave him on that day; and,

**WHEREAS**, he leaves his legacy to his beautiful wife, Tiffany Hawthorne Childress; his loving parents Sherry Woodard Childress and Ronald G. Childress, Sr., Donna and Theo Hawthorne, Sr.; his grandparents, Alma Woodard and Rev. Addie L. DeViner; his devoted sisters Dineesha Childress and Jayna (Mario) Maitland; brothers-in-law, Theo (Tiffany) Hawthorne, Jr., Timothy Hawthorne, Terrance Hawthorne; aunts and uncles, Helen (Bill) Evans, Sarah Jean Hammond, Shelia Woodard, Chester (Lybrease) Woodard, Darlene Woodard, Carmella (Walter) Modica, Thomas Woodard, Harry (Dawn) Woodard, Alta Woodard, Nicholas Woodard, Doris (Sam) Luckie, James (Vernell) Childress, Darnell (Rhonda) Childress, Linda Miller, Robert Childress; nieces and nephews, DeAsia, DeOndrae, De'Niven, Rio Jr., Tyler and Taylor; a host of cousins; his church family, Fellowship of Faith Church and Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church; his ALFA Insurance colleagues and clients, Alabama A&M Alumni and friends.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, express to his wife, parents, grandparents, siblings, family, relatives and friends their deepest sympathy in the loss of Ronald Gene Childress, Jr.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that even as we mourn the passing of Ronald Gene Childress, Jr., we are resigned to the all-wise heavenly Father's will.

**ADOPTED** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2016.

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

**APPROVED** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2016.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama