

RESOLUTION NO. 16-686

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc., is hosting its Fifth Annual Scholarship Gala to be held in the Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on September 29, 2016. We also wish to recognize Representative Laura Hall as the Inspiring Young Minds to Succeed STEM Awardee; and,

WHEREAS, Representative Laura Hall is a native of Pendleton, South Carolina. She received her elementary and secondary education in the Pendleton Public School System. After graduating from Anderson County Training High School in 1960, she enrolled in Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina, and earned the Bachelor of Science degree in biology with chemistry as a minor. Further studies earned her the Master of Science degree in science education from Ohio State University and the K-12 Administration Certification from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. She was first elected to the Alabama House of Representatives by special election in August 1993, and she was re-elected in 1994, 1998, 2001 and 2006. Representative Hall is a retired educator whose tenure in the education field extended for over 40 years; and,

WHEREAS, during her years in the State of Alabama Legislature, she became the first African-American woman elected to represent House District 19. Her committee assignments have included: Judiciary, Joint Interim on Medicaid, Public Safety, Welfare, Health, Industrial and Economic Development, Joint Budget and Finance, and Government Finance and Appropriations. She is actively involved in the community, where she offers her talents and skills as a volunteer for numerous organizations. In 2001, she served as Chairwoman of the Governor's Commission on AIDS. Other community and civic involvements include member, National Education Association; Alabama Education Association; State Democratic Executive Committee; Madison County Democratic Executive Committee; Alabama Democratic Conference; Alabama New South Coalition; Huntsville Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Social Action Commission, Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Inc.; Governor's Commission on AIDS for Adults and Youth, Chair; Black AIDS Institute; and Board of Directors, Community Faith Gathering Committee. Also, she is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church; and,

WHEREAS, in June 2015, Representative Hall presented to the Huntsville community "Girls, Gigabytes and Gadgets (3G)," an initiative of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislators (NOBEL). 3G is an innovative, day-long weekend series of workshops designed to expose young women and girls engaged in careers in science, technology, engineering, arts/ design and mathematics. The event consists of multiple workshops featuring topics that range from app development to social media mastery, and has one simple message: women aren't just to be users of technology, but creators, designers, influencers and decision makers, as well. In 2016, Representative Hall partnered with Representative Anthony Daniels to include young men, and the event became "Girls, Guys, Gigabytes and Gadgets (4G)," which allowed both young boys and girls from District 19 and District 53 to engage in activities involving the Internet, technology, and digital space; and,

WHEREAS, the event consists of multiple workshops featuring topics that range from app development to social media mastery. It is designed with one simple message in mind: young women or young men aren't just to be users of technology, but creators, designers, influencers and decision makers, as well; and,

WHEREAS, Representative Hall is a widow. She was married to the late Dr. John W. Hall. They are the parents of Darren W. (Ato) Hall (deceased) and Janeka T. Hall, and the grandparents of Kenosha Hall, Jawanza Hall, Andrea Hall, Shante Hall, Shawn Darren Hall, Breana Hall, Tamia Hall and Justasia Hall.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and commend the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc., on their Fifth Annual Scholarship Gala and extend best wishes for continued success. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Representative Laura Hall as the Inspiring Young Minds to Succeed STEM Awardee for her many achievements, and wish her every success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 22nd day of September, 2016.

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

APPROVED this the 22nd day of September, 2016

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama