

RESOLUTION NO. 16-824

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, wish to respectfully acknowledge and honor Councilman Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. In 1988, he was the first African-American elected since The Reconstruction to represent District 1 as a member of the Huntsville City Council. In 2005, he was elected to serve as President, and again in 2015, he was elected by his peers to serve as President Pro-Tem, along with Councilman Will Culver as President, as the first African-American Councilmen to hold the primary leadership positions of the Huntsville City Council. He has served steadfastly the constituents of District 1, and, indeed, all citizens of the City of Huntsville and surrounding area for the betterment of 28 years; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., was born to the late Charlie and Mary E. Showers in Lillian, Alabama, and attended Baldwin County Training School in Daphne, Alabama. He relocated to Huntsville in 1964 as a student at Alabama A&M University where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness Education and a Master of Science Degree in Trade and Industrial Education. He furthered his studies at Auburn University, and also worked as an educator at Auburn High School as an agribusiness teacher; and,

WHEREAS, a man of strong family values, Richard and wife Bettye Ann of Huntsville have five children: Richard, Jr., Felicia, Jenise, Gwen and Wanda; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Showers is an outstanding educator and taught school for a total of 36 years. He held the positions of elementary technology teacher, middle school earth science teacher, middle school industrial arts teacher, vocational education teacher, adult education teacher and adult education coordinator. He received an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Humanities in 1998, and on July 1, 2005, he officially retired from the Huntsville City School System as the basic career technical teacher at the Huntsville Center for Technology. After his many years of giving, teaching and mentoring to youth groups and adults in North Alabama, he chose to retire from the Huntsville City School System where he leaves an indelible imprint on many of the lives he touched over the years; and,

WHEREAS, during his 52 years as a resident, he has served as a teacher and mentor to many people in the Huntsville area. Currently, he is a member of the National Education Association; Alabama Education Association; life member, Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc.; life member, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; member, Huntsville Alumni Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and life member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served on the Board of Trustees for Alabama A&M University and currently serves on the Board of Trustees at Selma University.

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. has also been a faithful servant through his activity in Union Chapel M. B. Church where he is an active Deacon and Sunday School Teacher, and serves with the Northeast Laymen's Movement and the Alabama State Baptist Laymen's Movement Auxiliary of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc., and the National Baptist Laymen's Convention, where he was the past First Vice-President, to name a few; and,

WHEREAS, while serving on the Huntsville City Council, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. initiated Huntsville's first Smoking Ordinance and has been a key element to the success of numerous economic initiatives including the North Industrial Park and the Toyota Plant. He has been very supportive of efforts not only in his district, but for the good of Huntsville overall. He has been a strong, encouraging force in the revitalization of downtown Huntsville and the renovation of Parkway Place Mall to stimulate retail development throughout Huntsville. He was successful in having the Northern Bypass named in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and was instrumental in the remodeling and refurbishment of the YMCA located on Blue Spring Road, which was named the Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., Recreation Center in his honor. He has led the efforts to build the Mastin Lake Overpass, the Northern By-pass, the renovation of Council High School, and naming a street in honor of a Civil Rights icon, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., has served with three Mayors: Mayors Steve Hettinger, Loretta Spencer and Tommy Battle. He has also served with the following City Council members: Ernest Kaufmann, II, Jim Putnam, Dr. Jimmy Wall, Bill Kling, Jr., Glenn Watson, Chuck Saunders, Sandra Moon, Mark Hall, Dick Hiatt, Ken Arnold, John Olshefski, Dr. Jennie Robinson, Mark Russell and Will Culver.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we express our appreciation to Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., for his career of 36 years of service to students of all ages and his 28 years of service as District 1 Representative to the Huntsville City Council. He has given a strong dimension of stability, dependability and initiative to Huntsville City government and his commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for the citizens of District 1 and ultimately all areas of the City of Huntsville.

To our respected fellow Councilman, noble benefactor and beloved friend, we offer our every good wish and all success in every future endeavor.

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ADOPTED this the 27th day of October, 2016.

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

APPROVED this the 27th day of October, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama