

RESOLUTION 24-703

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, wish to honor Kenny Anderson, the Director of the City of Huntsville Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, for his distinguished career and thank him for his decades of extraordinary service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Kenny Anderson was born and raised on the lower east side of New York City. After hearing stories about the Rocket City, he relocated to attend Oakwood College, now Oakwood University. Despite the dramatic change in environment, he was pleased with his new home, recounting the quiet beauty in sharp contrast to the noisy city where he had been raised; and

WHEREAS, Anderson earned his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Oakwood before obtaining a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Alabama A&M University and immediately put his education to good use; and

WHEREAS, Anderson is a nationally-certified counselor actively working in the field for over thirty years. Since 1990, he has been the host and producer of a weekly radio show called "2nd Chance," which is broadcast every Sunday on WJOU Praise 90.1 FM, Oakwood University's radio station. He served 17 years at Calhoun Community College, most recently as Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences and is the President of Maximum Life Enhancement, an education and business management consulting sole proprietorship; and

WHEREAS, Anderson continued his service and dedication to Huntsville residents when he was appointed Director of Multicultural Affairs in 2013. In this position, Anderson acts as a liaison between the City and the community on multicultural issues, encouraging understanding and promoting social justice among diverse groups. Known as a bridge-builder, Kenny has served in this role for over a decade, acting as an advocate, empowering individuals, and establishing important relationships with stakeholders and citizens; and

WHEREAS, Anderson's professional affiliations include the National Board of Certified Counselors, 100 Black Men-Greater Huntsville Chapter and the American Psychological Association. Currently, he serves on the boards of several organizations, such as Phoenix, Partnership for a Drug Free Community and Habitat for Humanity, continuing his mission to support and uplift the Huntsville community. Previously he chaired the United Way of Madison County and the Interfaith Mission Service's Racial Harmony Coalition, and he served on the City of Huntsville's Human Relations Commission. He has written as a columnist and received countless awards for his decades of service, and

WHEREAS, Anderson demurs when asked about his own accomplishments, he is far more passionate when sharing opportunities he has helped create for the City's marginalized communities. In 2013, he established the Jack & Annie Anderson 2nd Chance Endowed Scholarship at Calhoun Community College for students who have overcome adversity in their life and crave a second chance to earn a degree or certificate. The scholarship is named in memory of his parents in honor of their lifelong commitment to education and held by the

Calhoun Foundation. Anderson then launched the “25” Scholarship and the 212 Community Service Scholarship at Oakwood University in support of students who want to achieve their educational dreams. In 2018, Kenneth launched Leadership Empowerment Enterprise, a nonprofit organization providing strategic initiatives to ensure that effective legacies are established for future generations through personal development seminars, mentor training, and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Anderson’s accomplishments is difficult to measure and the impact of his efforts will be appreciated for years to come. The strength of his character and the level of his commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a guide to us all. As Mr. Anderson retires, the legacy he has left throughout the City is one of honor, dedication, and success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, honor Mr. Kenneth Anderson for his loyal service to the community and congratulate him on his retirement, acknowledging with gratitude the many accomplishments achieved during his distinguished career.

ADOPTED this the 26th day of September, 2024.

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

APPROVED this the 26th day of September, 2024.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama