

## **RESOLUTION 22-**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama express great sorrow at the passing of James Otha Bearden, Sr., former community volunteer and faithful member of Lakeside Methodist Church on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021 and would like to recognize and honor him for his remarkable achievements, dedication, and service to the Huntsville community; and

**WHEREAS**, James Otha Bearden, Sr., born on February 12, 1931 in Huntsville, Alabama, was one of 11 children to parents Charlie and Rosetta Douglas Bearden; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bearden comfortably called Huntsville home, graduating from Council High School and attending Alabama A&M University, majoring in Accounting; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing February is Black History Month, it seems only fitting to honor one of our own citizens as he was the first African American to serve on the IBM Board of Directors, during a time when IBM made incredible contributions to the NASA program. IBM provided the computing power to navigate the Saturn rockets to the moon. During Mr. Bearden's twenty-five years with IBM, he consistently arrived thirty minutes early for work and received the most prestigious award, named the "The IBM Means Service Award;" and

**WHEREAS**, at Lakeside Methodist Church, Mr. Bearden served as a trustee and was an active and faithful member of the Sanctuary Choir. He greeted his fellow congregation members with his warm personality and infectious laughter; and

**WHEREAS**, the community at large also benefited from Mr. Bearden's desire to serve, and he infused in his family that "Service is Sovereign." He was a founding member of the Fraternal Club, Masonic #6, worked on the Ad Hoc Committee to establish the Land Trust of Monte Sano, participated as a Deputy Voting Registrar, served on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Huntsville Emergency Medical Services (HEMSI); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bearden received scores of awards and honors in recognition of his tireless service to mankind, including the Multigenerational Family of the Year award, the Community Service Award as a Public Servant for his kindness to families and at-risk youth presented by the late Bob Harrison, County Commissioner of Madison County, and the "Model Citizen of the Year" award from the late Bishop Kenneth Tate; and

**WHEREAS**, despite his numerous public accolades, it was his family that he inspired most. He dotted on his wife of 66 years, Georgia Ruth, and instilled the importance of love and family to his numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Bearden was described as a good man, a kind man.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama express their greatest sympathy of the passing of James Ortha Bearden,

Sr. to his family, loved ones, friends, and acquaintances, and hereby recognize his service to his fellowman and his contributions as a public servant to our community.

**ADOPTED** this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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

**APPROVED** this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Mayor of the City of  
Huntsville, Alabama