



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 7/24/2025

File ID: TMP-5783

Department: City Council

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Resolution honoring the late Hundley Batts Sr., a trailblazer in local broadcasting who founded multiple radio stations including WEUP-FM, whose reach stretches across North Alabama and beyond.

Resolution No.

Finance Information:

Account Number: N/A

City Cost Amount: N/A

Total Cost: N/A

Special Circumstances:

Grant Funded: N/A

Grant Title - CFDA or granting Agency: N/A

Resolution #: N/A

Location: (list below)

Address:

District: District 1 District 2 District 3 District 4 District 5

Additional Comments:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama wish to recognize and honor the life and legacy of the late Hundley Batts, Sr., a distinguished local business owner who transformed Huntsville's radio landscape over the last forty years; and

WHEREAS, Batts, a lifelong Huntsville resident, graduated from Councill High School, attended Alabama A&M University and the University of Alabama, before branching into business ownership through Hundley Batts & Associates Insurance Agency and Broadcast One, the parent company to a network of radio stations that included WHYI-AM 1600, WEUV-FM 103.1, WEUZ-FM 92.1, WEUV-AM 1190, and WEUP 1700 AM; and

WHEREAS, Batts and his beloved wife, Dr. Virginia Caples, acquired WEUP in 1987, which began as a 100-watt AM station broadcasting from a trailer in 1958, transforming it into a five-station network committed to providing the community with its own voice; and

WHEREAS, Batts was honored many times for his commitment to local broadcasting through induction to the Alabama Broadcasters Association (ABA) Hall of Fame in 2019 and Urban Knights Hall of Fame by the American Urban Radio Network in 2009. He was also recognized with the 1988 Small Business Executive of the Year Award, the 2003 Mentor of the Year Award, the 2008 Unity Award, and the Distinguished Service Award presented by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Batts' leadership extended beyond his radio career, and leaned on his faithful membership at First Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as a trustee and Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, Batts conceptualized and produced the free Black Arts Festival from 1990 to 2007, which attracted up to 40,000 festival-goers each year and benefited Harris Home for Children. He also served as Chairman of the Huntsville Heritage Foundation, which organized Big Spring Jam in the 1990s and drew over 225,000 attendees almost every year and drew thousands of dollars in support for local organizations. His civic engagement efforts include serving as Commissioner of the Huntsville/Madison County Railroad Authority, Chairman of the Industrial Development Board of Huntsville/Madison County, Managing Partner of the Downtown Office Plaza, and Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Batts passed away on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at the age of 81, leaving behind a storied legacy that remains unparalleled as a pioneer of local broadcasting. Huntsville City Council extends its deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Batts, and all who knew and loved this true giant of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, proudly honor Hundley Batts, Sr., a pioneer of local broadcasting, successful business leader, dedicated community leader, and compassionate mentor, whose legacy will resonate within the hearts of Huntsville residents for generations to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-(Cont'd)

ADOPTED this the 24th day of July, 2025.

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

APPROVED this the 24th day of July, 2025.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama