



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 11/6/2025

File ID: TMP-6178

Department: City Council

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Resolution Acknowledging the 205th Anniversary of St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church, celebrating its remarkable legacy of faith, resilience, and service to the Huntsville community.

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: N/A

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

Additional Comments:

N/A

RESOLUTION 25-

Whereas, Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church, lovingly known as “The Mother Church of Black Primitive Baptists,” was divinely organized in 1820 by Elder William Harris while African Americans were still enslaved, making it the oldest Black church in the State of Alabama; and

Whereas, the Church was founded on sacred ground once known as the Old Georgia Graveyard, where Elder Harris faithfully preached among the resting places of enslaved souls; offering hope, dignity, and steadfast faith that would carry generations forward; and

Whereas, despite the devastation of the Civil War and the destruction of its original sanctuary by Union soldiers, God’s grace prevailed as President Ulysses S. Grant later appropriated funds for its rebuilding in 1872, whereupon it was rededicated and renamed Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church in honor of the saintly leadership of Elder Bartley Harris; and

Whereas, throughout its remarkable 205-year journey, Saint Bartley has been shepherded by only nine pastors; each contributing uniquely to its spiritual and communal growth; from its founding leaders, Elder William Harris and Elder Bartley Harris, to its current visionary pastor, Elder Jaymes R. Mooney, who continues to expand the Church’s mission through community transformation, education, and outreach; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Elder Felix Jordan, Saint Bartley once again made history by hosting the 1907 national meeting that established the National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., thereby securing its enduring legacy as The Mother Church of the National Body; and

Whereas, for more than two centuries, Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of faith, perseverance, and service; uplifting countless lives through worship, teaching, and ministries that exemplify the love and compassion of Christ; and

Whereas, the City of Huntsville recognizes the Church’s extraordinary contributions to our city’s spiritual, cultural, and historical fabric, and commends its steadfast commitment to “Meeting Needs and Making Disciples” for more than two centuries.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we joyfully honor and celebrate Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church on the occasion of its 205th Church Anniversary, recognizing its profound legacy of faith, its historical significance to Huntsville and the State of Alabama, and its continued devotion to God and community. This incredible milestone stands as a testament to the Church’s enduring faith, its service to humanity, and its shining example of perseverance; affirming that “the Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.” — Psalm 126:3

ADOPTED this the ____ day of _____, 2025.

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

APPROVED this the ____ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama