



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 3/13/2025

File ID: TMP-5177

Department: City Council

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Resolution honoring Reverend Rick Johnson for his decades of ministerial service.

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, the City Council and mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, wish to honor Reverend Rick Johnson for his unwavering dedication and faithful service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Rick, the eldest child of Cotton and Linda Johnson, embraced responsibility from an early age. As the big brother to his sister, Melanie, and brother, Hoss, he quickly learned the value of leadership and the importance of setting a positive example for those around him; and

WHEREAS, On February 18, 1968, Rick accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at West Huntsville Baptist Church, just down the road from his childhood home. Guided in prayer by a cherished family friend, Wayne Kimbrough, he made a life-changing commitment to his faith. Rick grew up in that church community until leaving for college; and

WHEREAS, He graduated from Butler High School in 1976 before attending Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he earned his degree in 1980. During this time, he married the love of his life, Paula Hall, on June 2, 1979; and

WHEREAS, Rick served as Youth Pastor at several churches, dedicating himself to guiding and mentoring young people in their faith. He began his ministry at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Dayton, Tennessee, from September 1977 to February 1979, before moving to Wall Highway Baptist Church in Madison, Alabama, where he continued his work until December 1980. He then served at Calvary Road Baptist Church from December 1980 to March 1985 and later at Triana Village Baptist Church from March 1985 to May 14, 1986. On his 28th birthday, he was honored to be voted in as the pastor of Triana Village Baptist Church, marking a new chapter in his ministry; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, the congregation voted to change the church's name to its current name, Friendship Baptist Church. This September will celebrate Rick's 48th year in ministry, a testament to his unwavering dedication to sharing the gospel. This March marks an incredible milestone—40 years of faithful service as a minister at Friendship Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Rick and Paula are blessed with seven children and 12 grandchildren. With a deep passion for strengthening families, Rick has always placed the utmost importance on the well-being of the family unit. Encouraged by a few church members, he launched an annual retreat dedicated to fostering and enriching marriages. Over the years, this retreat has flourished, drawing couples from numerous churches across the Southeast, making a lasting impact on countless families.; and

WHEREAS, as a Huntsville native, Rick has nurtured lifelong friendships and maintained strong connections with former teachers, many of whom he has had the honor of officiating their funerals. To celebrate their lasting impact, he and his church have organized special commemorative events, extending gratitude not only to educators but also to community officials and city servants, ensuring their contributions are celebrated and remembered; and

WHEREAS, before coming to Friendship, Rick served as a youth pastor at three churches, forming deep and lasting relationships that have endured for 48 years. Many of the teenagers he once mentored are now grandparents, yet they still turn to him for guidance and wisdom. His genuine friendship and steadfast support have been a blessing to countless lives, and in return, God has surrounded him with a wealth of cherished friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, wish to recognize Reverend Rick Johnson for his decades of dedicated ministry, steadfast faith in God, and deep love for the city, demonstrated through his lifelong pastoral service and impactful career.

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