



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 1/8/2026

File ID: TMP-6419

Department: General Services

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Ordinance declaring a certain railroad car, identified as the “AAR Boxcar”, as surplus and to be donated to the Scottsboro Boys Museum.

Ordinance No. 25-1031

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:

A certain railroad car located at the Historic Huntsville Depot known as the “AAR Boxcar” is not needed for a municipal purpose or for a public purpose.

The Scottsboro Multicultural Foundation, an Alabama non-profit corporation, operates the Scottsboro Boys Museum, which is dedicated to telling and preserving the history of the Scottsboro Boys.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-_____

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville is the owner of the Historic Huntsville Depot (the “Depot”), a historic passenger train depot located in downtown Huntsville; and

WHEREAS, the City also owns a certain railroad car known as the “AAR Boxcar”, which is shown in the picture attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the AAR Boxcar is very similar to the boxcars that figured prominently in the “Scottsboro Boys” case in which several young African American men were arrested during a train ride from Chattanooga, Tennessee to Huntsville, Alabama and unjustly accused and convicted of a serious crime; and

WHEREAS, the Scottsboro Multicultural Foundation, an Alabama non-profit corporation, operates the Scottsboro Boys Museum, which is dedicated to telling and preserving the history of the Scottsboro Boys; and

WHEREAS, locating the AAR Boxcar at the Scottsboro Boys Museum would further the goals and aims of the Museum; and

WHEREAS, the Scottsboro Boys Museum serves a valid public educational purpose for all of North Alabama, including Huntsville; and

WHEREAS, the AAR Boxcar is surplus to the needs of the City of Huntsville and no longer needed for a public purpose.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama that the AAR Boxcar is surplus to the needs of the City of Huntsville and is no longer needed for a public purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the AAR Boxcar be donated to the Scottsboro Boys Museum.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of December, 2025.

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

APPROVED this the 18th day of December, 2025.

Mayor of the City of
Huntsville, Alabama

ATTEST:

Shaundrika Edwards
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

AAR Boxcar



AAR Boxcar

