



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 2/26/2026

File ID: TMP-6618

Department: City Council

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Resolution Recognizing the Impact of Male Mentorship and the Men of Change Initiative.

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 NO. 26 -

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, recognize that mentorship plays a critical role in the social, emotional, and academic development of young people, particularly young males who benefit from positive male role models, structured guidance, and consistent support systems that strengthen confidence, character, and purpose; and

WHEREAS, strong male guidance and leadership have been shown to improve student attendance, academic performance, self esteem, conflict resolution skills, responsible decision making, and post secondary aspirations, while helping to reduce youth violence and increase meaningful school engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Men of Change initiative was founded in 2022 by Michelle Watkins during her service on the Huntsville City Schools Board of Education after recognizing the need for visible and committed male leadership in the lives of young male students, and began its work at Jemison High School through weekly engagement focused on leadership development, life skills training, academic encouragement, and career exposure before expanding to McNair Middle School to reach students earlier in their developmental years; and

WHEREAS, the incredible mentors of Men of Change represent a broad cross section of the Huntsville community, including educators, public servants, business leaders, law enforcement officers, faith leaders, and civic advocates who generously invest their time, wisdom, accountability, and encouragement into the next generation of young men; and

WHEREAS, investing in positive role modeling and structured support today strengthens families, schools, and neighborhoods tomorrow, creating a pipeline of empowered young leaders who understand the value of education, discipline, service, and leadership and who will contribute positively to the continued growth and prosperity of the City of Huntsville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Huntsville City Council hereby recognizes and commends the Men of Change initiative and all male mentors throughout our community who selflessly dedicate their time and leadership to uplifting young males, encourages continued collaboration among schools, community organizations, faith institutions, and civic leaders to expand youth development opportunities across the city, affirms that this work is not merely a program but a movement that changes trajectories and restores hope, and directs that a copy of this resolution be presented as a symbol of appreciation for the transformative impact that intentional guidance has had and will continue to have on the lives of young men in Huntsville.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of _____, 2026.

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

APPROVED this the ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama