RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO RESEARCH LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS, CONDUCT OUTREACH TO OWNERS AND CONSTITUENTS, AND PREPARE APPLICATIONS FOR THEIR DESIGNATION.

WHEREAS, the City of Chattanooga recognizes that its historic buildings, sites, structures, and districts contribute to the community's cultural identity, sense of place, architectural heritage, and economic vitality. Multiple historically significant properties are under threat of demolition or have already been demolished; and

WHEREAS, proactively identifying and nominating eligible properties is an approach that ensures the community retains its cultural identity, sense of place, architectural heritage, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the City maintains, through Chapter 10, Article II Historic Zoning, a local historic landmark designation program administered by the Chattanooga Historic Zoning Commission; and

WHEREAS, a number of properties within the City may meet the criteria for local historic landmark designation but have not yet been formally identified, evaluated, or nominated; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified an initial set of properties and property categories of particular historic significance, including historic cemeteries, buildings designed by architect R.H. Hunt, and other individually significant landmarks, as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference to be further evaluated by staff; and

WHEREAS, properties owned by other government entities may be more appropriately addressed through other tools with the property owner rather than through local historic landmark (LHL) designation, given the nature of ownership or existing protections. These other preservation tools will be evaluated by staff; and

WHEREAS, formal designation of qualifying properties helps protect the City's architectural, cultural, and historical resources, and may make property owners eligible for preservation incentives, tax benefits, and grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the public interest to direct staff to undertake a systematic evaluation of potential local historic landmarks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Chattanooga as follows:

SECTION 1.

Direction to Staff — Local Historic Landmark Applications. City staff, in coordination with the Chattanooga Historic Zoning Commission, is hereby directed to research and prepare, where appropriate, local historic landmark (LHL) designation applications for the properties listed in Parts A, B, and C of Exhibit A, and in doing so to:

(a) Conduct historical and architectural research sufficient to document each property's eligibility under the criteria for local historic landmark designation set forth in Chapter 10, Article II Historic Zoning;

(b) Prepare all documentation required for a complete LHL application, including historical narrative, photographs, boundary description, and any other materials required by Chattanooga Historic Zoning Commission;

(c) Coordinate and engage with affected property owners of pending landmark designation applications and provide opportunity for input and feedback;

(d) Prioritize the order in which applications in Exhibit A are prepared and submitted based on ownership. Properties owned by the City of Chattanooga will be reviewed first including City Hall; and

(e) Submit completed applications to the Chattanooga Historic Zoning Commission for review and, where required, to the City Council for final action.

SECTION 2.

Direction to Staff. For the properties listed in Part D of Exhibit A, which the City Council finds are more appropriately protected through other available tools such as Memorandums of Understanding rather than LHL designation, staff is directed to initiate discussions with the respective property owners and to bring a proposed solution for each property back to the City Council for consideration.

SECTION 3.

Report Back. Staff shall provide periodic status updates to City Council as due dates are met based on the existing proposed schedule. These status updates can be issued in memorandums via email or in person at City Council.

SECTION 4.

Community Engagement. Staff is required to solicit input from local historical societies, neighborhood associations, descendant communities, property owners, and other interested community members throughout this process.

ADOPTED: _____, 2026

EXHIBIT A Properties for Local Historic Landmark Research and Application

Part A — Historic Cemeteries

1. **Beck Knob Cemetery**
    - The first burial ground established for African Americans in Chattanooga, Beck Knob Cemetery is a one-acre site located on the south side of a steep hill in North Chattanooga, Tennessee. The cemetery is bound by partially wooded residential lots, an undeveloped lot, Dartmouth St., and Carrington Way (both residential streets). Oral tradition in the North Chattanooga African American community is that Black people who died c. 1865 in the Union army contraband camps of North Chattanooga were the first burials, predating consistent written documentation for burials in Chattanooga. Officially deeded to a local African American church congregation (now known as Hurst United Methodist) in 1888, the burial period of Beck Knob Cemetery documented in written records is 1884 to 1952.1 Visual surveys of the cemetery combined with research into city and state death records indicate there are at least 188 individuals interred. *Beck Knob National Register Nomination Form.*
2. **Pleasant Garden Cemetery**
    - Pleasant Garden Cemetery retains the necessary aspects of integrity to communicate its historical and design significance as a locally important African American cemetery. The cemetery's location remains unchanged. The setting had shifted from largely undeveloped rural farmland in 1890 to a primarily residential setting by the 1920s. However, the change in setting does not prevent the cemetery from communicating its historical and design significance. As the city expanded in the late 19th and early twentieth centuries, the undeveloped land on the fringes of settlement, where Black Chattanoogans could develop a cemetery during Jim Crow segregation, became surrounded by whites-only subdivisions by the 1920s. This documents not only the growth of the city into the East Ridge but also makes stark the distinct uses of space by whites and Blacks side-by-side during the period of significance. Because the cemetery was surrounded by subdivisions throughout most of its history, the change of setting prior to that does not diminish the site's integrity. *Pleasant Garden National Register Nomination Form.*
3. **Mizpah Cemetery**
    - The Mizpah Congregation Cemetery, the oldest Jewish cemetery in Hamilton County, was established immediately after the U. S. Civil War (1866) by the Hebrew Benevolent Association. The association purchased a potter's field from the Gardenhire estate with the stated purpose of exhuming the bodies of Union and Confederate Jewish soldiers who had been killed during the Battles for Chattanooga and providing them with appropriate burial.
4. **City Cemetery**

- While much has been written through the decades about Chattanooga's Citizens' Cemetery, this historic cemetery warrants another visit - both in prose and in person. Without sound documentation, it is believed that the Citizens' Cemetery was first used as a burial site circa 1837 on land purchased from Col. William Lindsay, an officer in the U.S. Army. Lindsay, stationed at Ross's Landing during the Cherokee conflict, had purchased a tract of about 100 acres, also located on East Third Street. The cemetery is positioned on a portion of this plot along with a smaller portion purchased from George W. Gardenhire. A search of city records uncovered documents from 1857 noting that the city owed Gardenhire $165 for cemetery land and $301 to the heirs of Col. Lindsay.

5. **Confederate Cemetery**
   - A two-acre strip running between its two neighbors, the Confederate site was created in 1867 and expanded in 1901. It includes individual headstones as well as a mass grave site for unidentified Confederate soldiers.

     Mines, L. M. (2020, June 6). Mines: Historic Hamilton County cemetery strolls. *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

     https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2020/jun/06/mines-historic-strolls/

     Bey, I., & Bey, I. (2026, March 12). The Confederate cemetery by UTC and its older, crumblier neighbor. Chattamatters. https://chattamatters.com/confederate-cemetery-utc-chattanooga-citizens-cemetery/

6. **Forest Hills Cemetery**
   - Forest Hills Cemetery (Incorporated January 5, 1880): Around 1874, Colonel A. M. Johnson proposed developing a new cemetery for Chattanooga stating that the old Citizens Cemetery, which had been in use since the 1830's, was overcrowded and neglected. By 1880, Johnson and a group of other investors had purchased 100 acres of farmland south of Chattanooga. Adjacent to Johnson's farm, the town of East Side and soon to be the town of St. Elmo, Forest Hills Cemetery opened in 1880. *St. Elmo National Register Nomination Form.*
7. **Brainerd Mission Cemetery**
   - The Brainerd Mission Cemetery was originally located in a rural area in the Chattanooga area. It is believed the mission complex had thirty to forty buildings at one time. These included cabins for the children, the mission house, barns, a sawmill, and the graveyard. After the Indian Removal in 1838, known as the infamous Trail of Tears, the mission was abandoned. A missionary who remained in the area purchased the cemetery to prevent its desecration. Over the years the cemetery was abandoned and used as a hog and cow lot until the 1920s when the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) became interested in the site. Today,

other than possible archaeological ruins, the cemetery remains as the only tangible link with the original mission settlement. It sits atop a tree shaded knoll in the midst of a major commercial area. In this immediate area are a shopping center, a shopping mall, an office complex, and surface parking lots. The cemetery is approximately one acre in size and is surrounded by a stone fence erected in the 1930s as a Works Progress Administration project. The remaining 1/2 acre of this parcel is open green space. Within the fenced area are various grave markers, many of which are illegible, and memorial benches and historical markers erected by chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. *Brainerd Mission Cemetery National Register Nomination.*

8. **Silverdale Confederate Cemetery (Old Cleveland Pike)**
    - The final resting place for Southern soldiers who died at hospitals established by Confederate General Braxton Bragg near Chattanooga in 1862. A large stone arch is located at the entrance from Highway 11; and the cemetery is well maintained by local volunteers.

      Silverdale Confederate Cemetery | Civil War - Tennessee Vacation. (n.d.). https://classic.tnvacation.com/civil-war/place/3535/silverdale-confederate-cemetery/

Part B — R.H. Hunt Buildings

1. **City Hall**
    - Constructed in 1908 and designed by R.H. Hunt. “The Dec. 11, 1907, Chattanooga News reported that the city was moving forward with the construction of a modern building to house its three branches of government. Alderman Thomas W. Fritts offered a resolution seconded by Councilman D.W. Thomas for the adoption of R.H. Hunt's plans and his employment as architect. But Alderman Doughty moved and J.J. McMahon seconded a motion to select plans submitted by Golucke and Co. When the vote was called, Hunt, the well-established architect, received eight votes and Golucke received only two. Mayor Frierson was instructed to notify Hunt that his plans had been selected and to meet with the Chattanooga City Council in joint session to ratify the choice.”

      Mines, L. M. (2025, August 16). Local History: Chattanooga’s 1907 plans for a new city hall. *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2025/aug/16/local-history-chattanoogas-1907-plans-for-a-new/

2. **Tivoli Theater**
    - At the time the Tivoli theater opened on March 19, 1921, it was considered "the finest theater in the entire South. " Architecturally, it has changed little since 1921,

and today it continues to play an active role in the cultural and entertainment life of Chattanooga. The building of the Tivoli started as a project of the Signal Mountain Company. It was designed by Chattanooga architect R. H. Hunt in conjunction with Kapp and Rapp. a Chicago architectural firm. *Tivoli Theater National Register Nomination Form.*

3. **Soldiers and Sailors Auditorium**
    - Chattanooga's Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium is a tribute to Chattanooga's foresight in attempting to build a large auditorium which would meet the needs of a growing city. As Chattanooga's only municipal auditorium, the building is historically significant as a component of the city's attempts to "modernize" in the 1920s. Hunt designed two of these large entertainment facilities for Chattanooga - the Tivoli and Memorial Auditorium. Yet, each is designed for different purposes and reflects a different execution of similar architectural influences. The Auditorium exhibits numerous features based on the Neo-classical style, such as the symmetrical arrangement, elaborately decorated arched entrance areas, and a dentiled cornice with decorative brick work below. While it is typical for Hunt to use the Neo-Classical style, the arrangement is unique to this building. *Soldiers and Sailors Auditorium National Register Nomination Form.*

Part C — Other Landmarks

1. **First Baptist Church (Shiloh Baptist Church)**
    - First Baptist Church stands on East Eighth Street in Chattanooga, 2000 feet southeast of the Hamilton County Courthouse. The congregation began constructing the building in 1885, and it was completed ten years later and dedicated on May 10, 1896. *First Baptist Church National Register Nomination.*
2. **Walden Hospital**
    - Before Dr. Emma Rochelle Wheeler opened Walden Hospital in Chattanooga in 1915, African Americans who required medical care were hospitalized in the basements of existing majority hospitals such as Erlanger Hospital or Newell Clinic. Wheeler, a physician who had practiced medicine in the city since 1905, purchased two lots on the corner of East Eighth and Douglas Streets and, using her own money, erected a three-story brick hospital. Dedicated on July 30, 1915, Walden Hospital became the first hospital in Chattanooga to be owned, operated, and staffed by African Americans and dedicated to their treatment.

      Rust, R. (2018, March 1). *Walden Hospital | Tennessee Encyclopedia*. Tennessee Encyclopedia. https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/walden-hospital/

3. **Lincoln Park**

- The documentation provided as part of this DOE request makes it clear that Lincoln Park had a significant role in the history of the African American community from the time of its creation in 1918 through the recent past. Although de-accessioned by the City as a formal, city-owned and maintained park, the eligible portion of Lincoln Park has continued to perform as and serve as a park for the local community until very recently. Its significance lies in its history as a product of *dejure* and *defacto* segregation in the city. *Determination of Eligibility Notification from National Register of Historic Places.*

4. **Martin Luther King Jr. NRHP District: Remaining Contributing Structures**
    - The M.L. King Boulevard Historic District is an elongated area lying approximately five blocks in an east-west direction and one block wide in a north-south direction. The district contains thirty-six primarily brick commercial buildings constructed mostly in the period from the late 1890's to about 1917. ! Twenty-seven of these buildings contribute to the general architectural significance of the district. This street has been a principal center of black life in Chattanooga since the mid 1800's. M.L. King Boulevard, the major thoroughfare through the district, was recently (1981) renamed from East Ninth Street. The district is located on an eastern axis perpendicular to the Chattanooga central business district. *M.L. King Jr. Boulevard National Register Historic District Nomination Form.*
5. **City of Chattanooga Library Downtown Branch (celebrating 50 years in Oct. 2026)**
    - By the 1970s, the community's needs outpaced what the current library could offer, so a new central library and satellite locations were built, opening as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library. The award-winning Brutalist design Main Library opened downtown in 1976, with four additional branches opening over the next 2 decades.

      Library. (2026, June 24). *About - Library*. Library - the Place for Lifelong Learning. https://chattlibrary.org/about

6. **Brainerd Golf Course**
    - Opened in 1926, Brainerd Golf Course is a classic Donald Ross municipal layout conveniently located minutes from downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. The 18-hole, par-72 track stretches 6,470 yards from the back tees and delivers a traditional Ross experience with narrow, tree-lined corridors, strategic bunkering and subtly contoured, push-up greens that reward precise shot-making.

      "Greens Visited." 2025. Greensvisited.Com. 2025.

      https://www.greensvisited.com/courses/brainerd-golf-course.

Part D — Properties for Other Preservation Tools (in lieu of LHL designation)

1. **Solomon Building/U.S. Post Office**
    - Hunt's most significant Art Deco design in Chattanooga. It is also Hunt's last major design in Chattanooga. *U.S. Post Office National Register Nomination Form.*
2. **Hamilton County Courthouse**
    - The Hamilton County Courthouse is an impressive display of Neo-Classical Revival architecture. It follows the basic designs of the Neo-Classical Revival by having a symmetrical arrangement, large proportions, a smooth stone surface, no statuary and large single-light sashes. An arch in the facade and enriched moldings are not common features of this style but are used on this building. It was designed by R. H. Hunt in 1911 to be basically square with entrances on all four sides and to be slightly to the rear of the lot. *Hamilton County Courthouse National Register Nomination Form.*