



WHEREAS: Dr. Lester B. Johnson, Jr. was born on August 26, 1926. He graduated from Alfred E. Beach High School in 1944. He received a B.S. degree in Architectural Engineering from Hampton University in 1949. His tenure at Hampton was interrupted by a sixteen-month tour of duty in the United States Army. He later received a Master's of Education Degree in industrial education from South Carolina State University; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Johnson became an Industrial Arts and Mathematics teacher at Beach High School in 1949. In conjunction to teaching, he was the school's photographer and the advisor for the *Golden Bulldog*, the school's yearbook for fifteen years. He also organized the school's first Varsity Club. For all of his hard work and accomplishments Dr. Johnson was named Beach High School Teacher of the Year in 1961; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Johnson took on a new venture and began teaching at Savannah State University in 1969. While there he became an EPDA fellow and earned his doctorate at the University of Missouri-Columbia in vocational education in 1973. Within that same year, he was appointed chairman of the Department of Engineering Technology. He retired as professor and chairman emeritus of engineering technology in 1992; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Johnson was very active in numerous organizations and served on various boards throughout his life. He was one of only two African-Americans who were members of the TAC/ABET from 1979 to 1984; He was a director for the Technical College Council of the American Society for Engineering Education and received its Centennial Certificate in recognition of his contributions to engineering education; he was one of the first two African-Americans appointed to the Board of Trustees for Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame; He is the past secretary, vice president and the first African-American to serve as president. In 2008, he was named Trustee Emeritus. Dr. Johnson was honored with a citation for his support to the advancement of athletics and for his mentoring of student-athletes in 1998. He has also served four terms on the Historic Review Board for the City of Savannah and three terms on the Board of Equalization; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Johnson is a life member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He served as a past Basileus, Keeper of Records and Seal, and Parliamentarian of Mu Phi Chapter. As a member, he has been chapter and district Omega Man of the Year and a charter member of the Board of Directors for the Omega Life Membership Foundation and a former state representative for Georgia. He received his sixty-year service pin and a commemorative pin in recognition of his service as a state representative in 2008. He received a Founders' Award at the 50th year anniversary of the Omega Psi Phi Georgia State Workshop. His late father, and his son, Lynt B. Johnson, MD are also men of Omega; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Johnson was a man of many talents. He was a certified Senior Engineering Technologist; the first certified waterfront director at Camp O'Hara; he was employed at the *Savannah Morning News* for twenty-one years; and the first supervisor of inserters in the Circulation Department Mailroom. As a supervisor, he was able to provide employment opportunities to many local high school and college students; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Johnson and his wife of sixty-six years, Constance Mosley Johnson, are members of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. He is a past president of the Holy Name Society and a charter member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 10274 and a 4th Degree Knight. He is a charter and life member of the Ralph M. Gilbert Civil Rights Museum; and


WHEREAS: Dr. Johnson and his wife are the proud parents of five children and five children of love from unions of marriage. From these five loving unions, there are twenty grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. He is survived by his siblings in love and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, celebrate the legacy and accomplishments of Dr. Lester B. Johnson, Jr. and offer our appreciation for his service and the impact his life contributed to the City of Savannah, especially to the success of his children and former students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Lester Johnson Jr. will be sadly missed by all of us who knew him as a notable educator; and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to his family and made a part of the permanent records of the Savannah City Council meeting minutes of December 7, 2017.

Signed and Sealed: December 4, 2017

ATTEST:  Luciana M. Spracher, Acting Clerk of Council


Eddie W. DeLoach, Mayor