

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-R- 65**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM RIDERS PARK**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Anniston has worked to preserve sites related to the May 1961 Freedom Rides, through the Anniston Civil Rights and Heritage Trail, through the work of the Spirit of Anniston, Freedom Riders Park Committee and local partners.

**WHEREAS**, local partners are working with the City, county, state and National Park Service to create Freedom Riders Park to preserve sites in and around Anniston.

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service announced on May 26, 2015 its intent to conduct a reconnaissance survey of Freedom Rider sites to determine if these sites meet NPS criteria to create a new unit of the National Park System.

**WHEREAS**, the National Park System currently does not include any sites dedicated to telling the story of the desegregation of public accommodations, an important chapter in the America's Civil Rights story.

**WHEREAS**, the City's civil rights sites possess national significance and a new National Park unit would promote tourism, provide the City with an additional educational resource and demonstrate the City's commitment to civil rights.

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Freedom Riders National Park would complement the City's existing historic, educational and recreational attractions and help promote downtown redevelopment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Anniston that the City supports local efforts to establish a new unit of the National Park System to create an educational and economic resource for the local community in order to attract visitors from across the United States and internationally.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City encourages the National Park Service to complete the reconnaissance survey on an expedited basis in order to provide for designation of the new park in 2016 to coincide with the Centennial of the National Park Service.

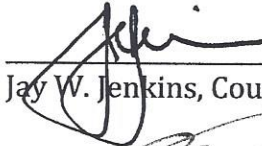
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City pledges its support to work with NPS and other partners to: (1) facilitate the completion of the reconnaissance survey; (2) help preserve sites in the City on a cooperative basis; and (3) establish the new park unit.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.

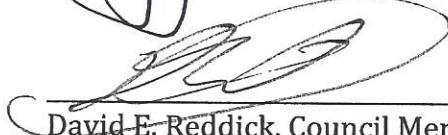
**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA**



Vaughn M. Stewart II, Mayor



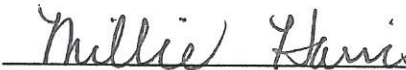
Jay W. Jenkins, Council Member



David E. Reddick, Council Member



Seyram Selase, Council Member



Millie Harris, Council Member

ATTEST:



Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk