

RESOLUTION NO. 25778

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING, HONORING, AND COMMENDING RANDALL L. NELSON FOR HIS OUTSTANDING LEGAL SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING HIS SERVICE AS SPECIAL COUNSEL AND AS CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

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WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson began his legal career working with Eugene N. Collins immediately after obtaining his law degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the Spring of 1968; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson served as Special Counsel for the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee for twenty-two (22) years in the law offices of Eugene N. Collins and Associates from April 1968 through August 6, 1990; and,

WHEREAS, on July 10, 1990, Mayor Gene Roberts submitted his Reorganization Plan with Randall L. Nelson as City Attorney to the Chattanooga City Council. Attorney Nelson was then interviewed by the Chattanooga City Council on July 24, 1990 and that body approved Mayor Roberts' appointment unanimously on August 7, 1990. City Attorney Nelson has continued to work in that position for Mayors Jon Kinsey, Bob Corker, and Ron Littlefield and for all members of the Chattanooga City Council who have served on that body since his appointment; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson was the first City Attorney to represent both the Mayor and City Council under the Mayor and City Council government we have enjoyed for the past eighteen (18) years; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson and Special Counsel chosen by him have superbly represented the City of Chattanooga in the Chattanooga City Court, the Circuit Courts of Hamilton County, the Chancery Courts of Hamilton County, the Tennessee Court of Appeals, the Tennessee Supreme Court, the federal courts of the Eastern District of Tennessee, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court since his appointment as City Attorney; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson has had the distinction of representing the City of Chattanooga in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and in argument before the United States Supreme Court regarding objections to the use of municipal facilities for the play "Hair" in the case of *Southeastern Promotion, Ltd. v. Conrad, et al.*, 420 U.S. 546 (1975), which was a significant First Amendment lawsuit studied by law school students for more than thirty (30) years; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson has served this community as one of four (4) founding members of the Board of Directors of the Chattanooga Memorial Auditorium and Tivoli Theatre and has later served as Legal Counsel for that Board from 1995 through 1995; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson has served this community as a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Tivoli Auditorium Promotional Association (TAPA, Inc.) from 1989 through 2008; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson has served as Legal Counsel for the Industrial Development Board of the City of Chattanooga from 1984 through 2008; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson has served as Legal Counsel for the Health, Educational, and Housing Facility Board of the City of Chattanooga from 1998 through 2008; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson has earned an AV® Peer Review Rating from *Martindale-Hubbell*. Martindale-Hubbell ratings reflect the confidential opinions of members of the Bar and Judiciary. This highest possible rating of AV® is an affirmation of Mr. Nelson's professional and ethical standards; and,

WHEREAS, Randall L. Nelson has given outstanding legal service and professional advice to the City of Chattanooga and this community for more than forty (40) years;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, that Randall L. Nelson be and is hereby recognized, honored, and commended for his outstanding legal service to the citizens, taxpayers, and elected officials of the City of Chattanooga and his consistent expertise in the field of municipal law while serving as Special Counsel and City Attorney during the past forty (40) years.

ADOPTED: January 6, 2009

MAM/PAN/add