

ORDINANCE NO. 23-617

WHEREAS, Loretta Spencer graduated from the University of Alabama in 1959 with a B.S. degree in elementary education and returned to Huntsville to teach fifth grade at Fifth Avenue School; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Spencer served the Huntsville community as a successful local business leader; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Spencer served the City and her fellow citizens through volunteerism, most notably as the president of boards, such as The Boys and Girls Club, The Senior Center, and The Botanical Gardens; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Spencer played a significant role in the development and growth of Huntsville through her service and leadership as chair of the Huntsville Planning Commission, where she helped develop Cummings Research Park West, the second largest research park in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, in 1996, Spencer was elected as Mayor of Huntsville, becoming the first woman to serve as mayor of any of the four largest cities in Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, during her twelve-year tenure as Mayor, she led the City through a period of meteoric economic growth and implemented policies and established plans that still benefit the City today. Under her leadership, Huntsville created unique tax incentive plans resulting in development and revitalization that generated millions of dollars in new funding for the Huntsville City Schools' capital improvement plan and significant City infrastructure projects; and,

WHEREAS, she is credited with such accomplishments as bringing to Huntsville the downtown Embassy Suites Hotel, Bridge Street Town Centre, Toyota V-8 Engine Plant, the Target Distribution Center, and an array of retail businesses, as well as initiating the revitalization of the downtown area; and,

WHEREAS, as Mayor, Mrs. Spencer was responsible for the creation of the Huntsville Sports Commission, which has attracted many major sporting events to Huntsville; and

WHEREAS, Spencer has received a great multitude of awards and well-deserved recognition for her insight and leadership, and since leaving office, she has continued contributing her time and resources to many worthwhile organizations, including the Army Space and Missile Defense Association, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, the Community Free Clinic, The Calhoun College Foundation and the Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama wish to honor Mrs. Loretta Spencer for her extraordinary leadership and thank her for decades of faithful service to the community by naming a facility in John Hunt Park in her honor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Huntsville as follows:

1. That the facility commonly referred to as the “Championship Soccer Complex” located at John Hunt Park (shown at Exhibit A) shall be named and henceforth known as “The Loretta P. Spencer Sports Complex”.
2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption and publication.

ADOPTED this the 10th day of August, 2023.

/s/ John Meredith
President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 10th day of August, 2023.

/s/ Tommy Battle
Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama

