

RESOLUTION NO 17-

WHEREAS, Torch Technologies will be receiving the “Corporate Award” during the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation’s Sixth Annual Education Gala, “Gaining STEAM: Moving to the Next Level,” and,

WHEREAS, Torch Technologies is a 100-percent employee-owned small business with over 780 employees dedicated to quality technical services, competitive costs, and ethical business practices headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama, with employee-owners located in Shalimar, FL; Colorado Springs, CO; Albuquerque, NM; Corpus Christi, TX; Pacific Missile Range Facility, HI; Fort Rucker, AL; Fort Letterkenny, PA; Aberdeen, MD; Reagan Test Site, Kwajalein; Barking Sands, HI; Honolulu, HI; Dayton, OH; Bedford, MA; and Cairo, Egypt.. In 2016, Torch’s annual revenues were approximately \$293 million, and they currently hold relevant research and development prime contracts worth over \$1 billion. Torch Technologies is dedicated to providing superior research, development, and engineering services to the Department of Defense in the following primary areas: Weapon System Performance Analysis to include sensors/seekers, aerodynamics, guidance and control, target discrimination, endgame performance, and command and control; Modeling and Simulation with emphasis primarily on high-fidelity level simulations including all digital simulations, Software-in-the-Loop (SWIL) and Hardware-in-the-Loop (HWIL) simulations; Information Technology such as distributed simulations/data management, visualization techniques, high performance computers, and network integration; Manned and Unmanned Aviation; Test & Evaluation (T&E); and Advanced Technology Research and Development including development, testing, and implementation of innovative algorithms and software. As a defense contractor, the services Torch provides directly supports the men and women who serve our country. The Torch Corporate Mission Statement sums up the pride their employees take in the work they do: "Lighting the Pathway of Freedom;" and,

WHEREAS, Torch Technologies is ISO 9001:2015 certified, and their Aviation Division has achieved a CMMI Level 3 rating. Torch has been recognized over the past decade for its business performance, workplace environment, and ethical business practices. Most recently, in 2017, Great Place to Work and Fortune magazine named Torch one of the country's Best Workplaces in Consulting & Professional Services for the second consecutive year. Torch was also named a winner of the 2017 Best Places to Work in Huntsville award, marking Torch’s fourth time to receive this honor, with previous wins in 2016, 2012 and 2008. Washington Technology listed Torch in its annual “Top 100: Government Contractors” ranking for the third consecutive year in 2017. Torch was also ranked in the Inc. 5000 list for the eleventh consecutive year in 2017. The list of accolades, awards, and recognitions from prestigious organizations and publications are many; and,

WHEREAS, Torch Technologies was co-founded in 2002 in Huntsville, Alabama, by Bill Roark and Don Holder. Roark and Holder respectively had 30 and 40 years of experience in the Department of Defense research and development programs and other contracts. The company's location was chosen due to proximity to Redstone Arsenal, which serves as headquarters of several large Army organizations such as AMCOM and offices belonging to US Army Aviation. Upon the company's formation, the co-founders began to aggressively recruit a

team of senior engineers, and set out to build a reputation for good service and competitive pricing; and,

WHEREAS, in 2005, Roark began to take steps that would allow Torch to become employee-owned (via an ESOP), and the company attained 100% employee ownership in 2011. Roark desired employee-ownership and profit sharing because such management styles have been proven to reduce employee attrition rates and increase job satisfaction. In 2008, Torch began bidding as a prime government contractor. With the receipt of four direct award prime task orders on AMCOM Express, the company won more contracts in two weeks in late 2008 than the previous six years of combined government work. Torch has maintained consistent growth and success, as evidenced by their recent inclusion on the **Inc.** 5000 List of the fastest-growing private companies in America for the eleventh consecutive year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville hereby gratefully acknowledge, congratulate, and extend best wishes to Torch Technologies. May you have continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED and **APPROVED** this the 14th day of September, 2017.