Whereas, Mr. John L. Lanier, Jr., Charles A. Brown-Birmingham Branch President and instrumental Co-Organizer, was a man of impeccable character and dedication to historical preservation and tireless advocate for the preservation of African American history and cultural resources;

Whereas, Mr. Lanier was born in Birmingham, AL, and a proud alumnus of Ullman High School;

Whereas, Mr. Lanier was deeply dedicated to self-improvement through academic study. After finishing Ullman, he moved to Washington, DC, where he worked while earning a BS degree in Oceanography from the George Washington University and later, a MS Degree in the Technology of Management from The American University. Mr. Lanier completed graduate work at the US Naval War College, Defense Executive Senior Leadership Program, and the National Security Studies Program at Maxwell School of Government, Syracuse University;

Whereas, Mr. Lanier had a distinguished career in the federal government, employed by federal agencies, including the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Washington, DC until his retirement in January 2005. He is also retired from the District of Columbia Air National Guard and United States Air Force;

Whereas, Mr. Lanier never forgot his roots. After retiring with more than 37 years of outstanding federal service, he and his wife, Mrs. Betty Lanier, relocated to Birmingham in December 2005 to help care for his late father;

Whereas, Mr. Lanier was a faithful member of his church, serving as a Trustee and Assistant Sunday School Teacher at First Baptist Church Graymont, located in the Smithfield Community of Birmingham;

Whereas, Mr. Lanier was an active and vital member of civic life in Birmingham. He helped to organize and re-charter the Charles A. Brown-Birmingham Branch of ASALH in 2020 and was just re-elected President with the full confidence of his chapter members;

Whereas, Mr. Lanier, along with school principals, local business and professional Black men, organized the “Breakfast Club” and mentored Birmingham City elementary and middle school boys who attended the former Brunetta C. Hill School and Ossie Ware Mitchell School;

Whereas, Mr. Lanier was also a faithful and dedicated member of the leadership of Birmingham American Genealogy Group, Inc., and Shadow Lawn Cemetery Association, a well as helped to coordinate and teach the “Maps for Genealogists” course at Samford University. He was also an active member of the Greater Titusville Civitan Club; Immediate Past Governor, Alabama Central District of Civitan; Crestwood South Neighborhood Association; and,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the members of the Charles A. Brown—Birmingham Branch of ASALH and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History National Headquarters extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. John Lanier on the loss of their beloved husband, father, and loved one.

Presented on this Date: March 2, 2022

Members of the Charles A. Brown—Birmingham Chapter of ASALH

Majella Chube Hamilton, Vice President-Membership
Dr. Tondra Loder-Jackson, Vice President-Programs
Dr. Sylvea Hollis, Secretary
Wanda Looney, Treasurer
Vernon Jackson, Historian