RESOLUTION NO. 17-R-44

A RESOLUTION APPROVING, FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 334.071, FLORIDA STATUTES, THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF STATE ROAD 371/373/ORANGE AVENUE IN BETWEEN STATE ROAD 263/CAPITAL CIRCLE AND STATE ROAD 61/MONROE STREET AS "C.K. STEELE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY"; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Reverend Doctor Charles Kenzie (C.K.) Steele, Sr., was born February 17, 1914 in Bluefield, West Virginia; attended public school in Gary, West Virginia, and in 1938 received a Bachelor of Arts degree at Morehouse College; completed religious study at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary (Atlanta) and the Urban Training Center for Christian Mission (Chicago); and, in 1979, the Doctor of Humane Letters degree was conferred upon him by Florida State University; and was married to Lois Marion Brock; and

WHEREAS, after serving as a minister in various cities, including Toccoa, Georgia, Montgomery, Alabama and Augusta, Georgia, Dr. Steele., accepted the call of ministry to the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, in Tallahassee, Florida in 1952; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, while serving as President of the Inter-Civic Council Dr. Steele led the successful protest to desegregate the Tallahassee city buses; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Steele served as First Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as state and local president of the NAACP and in other leadership capacities in numerous organizations dedicated to racial equality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Steele was actively engaged to eliminate racial discrimination in all public facilities, often marching with national black leadership despite being beaten, jailed, terrorized and harassed; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Steele participated in freedom rides, voter registration campaigns, Resurrection City, the Poor People's Campaign and Operation Breadbasket; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Steele was instrumental in seeking racial equality in Tallahassee, and very actively engaged in protests, demonstrations and leadership conferences within the Tallahassee community; and

WHEREAS, the City supports 2017 Legislation seeking to designate a portion of State Road 371/373 Orange Avenue in between State Road 263/Capital Circle and State Road 61/Monroe Street as "C.K. Steele Memorial Highway" in honor of Dr. Steele's courageous work and influence during the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 334.071(3), Florida Statutes (2017), the City Commission would support this honorary designation of the above-referenced road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ABOVE-NAMED GOVERNING BODY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The above recitals are true and correct and hereby incorporated by reference.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY FOR THIS RESOLUTION. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, Chapter 166, Part II, Florida Statutes and other applicable provisions of law. The City Commission (the "Commission") is the elected legislative body of the City of Tallahassee, Florida (the "City").

SECTION 3. APPROVAL FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 334.071(3), FLORIDA STATUTES (2017). For the purposes of Section 334.071(3), Florida Statutes (2017), the Commission hereby supports the designation of a portion of State Road 371/373 Orange Avenue in between State Road 263/Capital Circle and State Road 61/Monroe Street as "C.K. Steele Memorial Highway" in honor of Dr. Steele's courageous work and influence during the Civil Rights Movement that directly impacted Tallahassee.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall have effect upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 6th day of December, 2017.

ATTEST: CITY OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

By: _____ By: _____

James O. Cooke, IV, Andrew D. Gillum,
City Treasurer-Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

By: _____

Lewis E. Shelley,
City Attorney