

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION NAMING 6TH STREET BRIDGE
IN MEMORY OF LT. JOHN T. PRUITT, SR.**

WHEREAS, John T. Pruitt, Sr., born on March 18, 1933, the ninth and last child of Charlie and Hastie Pruitt, was a lifelong resident of Opelika, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, John T. Pruitt, Sr., was hired as an auxiliary police officer, earning \$2 per hour. On April 15, 1967, he became the first black police officer hired by the City of Opelika by Mayor T.K. Davis and Chief William J. Trussell. He retired at the rank of Lieutenant after serving the City for 26 years and 8 months; and

WHEREAS, while Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr., served with the Opelika Police Department, he was an instructor for pistol training and was considered an expert marksman and sharpshooter, receiving over 500 awards and trophies; and

WHEREAS, Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr., was a former member of the Alabama Combat League where he was honored with the Governor's Twenty Awards for being included in the top shooters in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr., was active in the Pleasant Grove Missionary Church where he served as Trustee and was a member of the Laymen Group, Male Choir and Men in Black Choir and Chair of Buildings and Grounds; and

WHEREAS, Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr., was first appointed by the Mayor of Opelika to serve on the Opelika Housing Authority Board of Commissioners in 1994, and continuously served on the board for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr.'s easygoing manner and ability to communicate with people were assets not only in his job but also in the community. He received many certificates and plaques of appreciation for his willingness to serve the City of Opelika and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Opelika City Council sees fit to honor Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr., who made the lives of our fellow Opelikans better, and brought honor and respect to this community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Opelika, Alabama (the “City”), as follows:

1. That the Mayor and City Council recognize with great admiration and appreciation the achievements and contributions of Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr.
2. That the 6th Street Bridge in Opelika is hereby named in memory of Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr., as the “Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr. Memorial Bridge”.
3. That the Mayor and the Public Works Director are hereby authorized and directed to erect appropriate signage denoting said designation.
4. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the family of Lt. John T. Pruitt, Sr.
5. That this Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and adoption by the City Council.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this the _____ day of _____, 2026.

**PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF OPELIKA**

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK