

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2026- 001

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA

SUBJECT: FLAGS ORDERED TO HALF-STAFF IN HONOR OF FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND EDUCATOR DR. TOMMIE F. BROWN

WHEREAS, the City of Chattanooga and the State of Tennessee lost a monumental figure in Dr. Tommie Florence Brown, a trailblazing educator, civil rights icon, and dedicated legislator who passed away on January 20, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brown made history as the first African American woman elected to represent the 28th District of Hamilton County in the Tennessee House of Representatives, where she served with distinction for twenty years from 1992 to 2012; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brown's commitment to education was evidenced not only by her legislative leadership as Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee, but also by her tenure at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she became the first African American woman to head an academic department, establishing the Social Work program's legacy of excellence; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brown was a fearless advocate for equity and representation, most notably serving as the lead plaintiff in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Commissioners* lawsuit, which fundamentally reformed Chattanooga's government structure to ensure fair representation for all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, her lifetime of service was recognized with numerous accolades, including the National Social Worker of the Year award, yet her true legacy lives on in the countless students she mentored and the more inclusive community she helped build; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of citizens of the City of Chattanooga to pause and reflect upon the life of a local leader who broke barriers and opened doors for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-8-104 and § 58-8-108, and Section 8.35 of the City Charter, the Mayor has the power to make an emergency declaration and order all flags to be held at half-staff over City buildings, which are under his supervision and control.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM KELLY, Mayor of the City of Chattanooga, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Charter and laws of the City of Chattanooga, do hereby proclaim and order the following:

1. **Display of Flags:** The flags of the United States and the City of Chattanooga shall be flown at half-staff at all City buildings, grounds, and facilities for the duration of this order.
2. **Duration:** This order shall be effective from sunrise to sunset on **Friday, January 23, 2026**, the day of her interment.
3. **Implementation:** The Department of Public Works and all City department heads are directed to ensure that this order is executed accordingly.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Chattanooga to be affixed this 21st day of January, 2026.

TIM KELLY

Mayor

City of Chattanooga

Attest:

City Attorney / City Recorder