

RESOLUTION NO. 32878

A RESOLUTION OFFICIALLY RENAMING “DUPONT PARK” AS “ALLAN LEDFORD PARK” TO HONOR THE PROFOUND, LIFELONG LEGACY OF A NATIVE CHATTANOOGAN WHO DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE ARTS, THE MENTORSHIP OF OUR YOUTH, AND THE SELFLESS SERVICE OF BOTH PEOPLE AND ANIMALS.

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WHEREAS, before his passing in August of 2025, Allan Ledford was a foundational pillar of Chattanooga’s creative and compassionate spirit who faced the early tragedy of losing his biological parents by age nine, and was raised in a loving local home where he developed the resilience and “larger-than-life” personality that would later define his career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ledford served as a musical theater director at the Center for Creative Arts, where he founded the legendary “Choo Choo Kids” ensemble. His impact was not merely professional but deeply personal; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ledford taught generations of Chattanooga’s children to believe in their unique abilities, providing a safe space for them to explore the arts and find their voices. Today, his former students perform on world stages, carrying the name of Chattanooga in their biographies as a testament to the man who first believed in them; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ledford was a “humanitarian par excellence” who gave his time to the East Ridge Community Food Pantry and served as a musical director for various local churches and was perhaps was most visibly felt with gentle kindness at McKamey Animal Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ledford lost his ability to speak above a whisper due to serious illness and chose to work with the shelter’s most challenging, rowdy, and large dogs most in need of patience. Because of his dedication, the animals learned to trust humans again and found loving homes. His selfless devotion earned him the title of McKamey’s Volunteer of the Year for 2024; and

WHEREAS, renaming DuPont Park to Allan Ledford Park is a uniquely fitting tribute. The park is located adjacent to McKamey Animal Center and serves as a sanctuary where volunteers walk and exercise the very animals Mr. Ledford loved so deeply. By renaming this space, the City ensures that Mr. Ledford’s legacy of compassion and creativity lives on in the quiet, natural beauty of the City he called home;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, That it hereby officially renames “DuPont Park” as “Allan Ledford Park” to honor the profound, lifelong legacy of a native Chattanooga who dedicated his life to the arts, the mentorship of our youth, and the selfless service of both people and animals.

ADOPTED: April 21, 2026

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