WHEREAS, recognizing and commemorating the heroic deeds in 1961 of the Tennessee A&I State University Fourteen Freedom Riders; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Christian leadership council (NCLC) was organized in 1958 and later that year authorized the conduct of nonviolent Workshops for purposes of training individuals in appropriate methods of challenging segregated public facilities; and

WHEREAS, many of the participants in the NCLC-sponsored Workshops on the philosophy and techniques of Christian non-violence were students at Tennessee A&I State University; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Movement was praised by Dr. Martin Luther King, as "the best organized and most disciplined Movement in the Southland"; and

WHEREAS, Nashville student leaders were instrumental in creation of the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee (SNCC); and

WHEREAS, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) began a Freedom Ride through the Deep South in 1961 but was met by great opposition and violence in Birmingham and in Anniston, Alabama with the resultant burning of its bus in Anniston and a cessation of the Rides; and

WHEREAS, the CORE bus riders ended their Freedom Ride after the violence in Alabama, Nashville's "Soul Force" student leaders contacted CORE relative to their desire to continue the Freedom Rides; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Freedom Riders were a racially mixed group of individuals from the community and colleges in the City, twenty-three of the Riders were Tennessee A&I State University students; and

WHEREAS, Freedom Riders from Tennessee A&I State University were arrested and convicted in Jackson, Mississippi of "Breach of the Peace" and received sentences of from 30 to 59 days as punishment; and

WHEREAS, Freedom Riders from Tennessee A&I State University were sent to Mississippi's infamous Parchman Prison Farm and subsequently beaten and deprived further of their rights; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 1961, the Tennessee A&I State Fourteen – Catherine Burks, Charles Butler, Allen Cason, Jr., William Harbour, Larry Hunter, Pauline Knight, Frederick Leonard, Lester McKinnie, William Mitchell, Ernest Patton, Jr., Eliia Simpson, Mary Jane Smith, Frances Wilson and Clarence Wright – all were expelled from the University "without due process"; and

WHEREAS, in October 1961 Pauline E. Knight, et al v State Board of Education for the State of Tennessee, et al, filed in Federal District Court, Middle District of Tennessee Nashville and Division; and

WHEREAS, a December 1961 ruling in said case ordered reinstatement of the dismissed Tennessee A&I State Fourteen; and

WHEREAS, only four of the Tennessee A&I State Fourteen completed their academic degree from the University and one from another University; and

WHEREAS, the Freedom Riders, according the then-U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy "succeeded in moving the nation's conscience" by their attempts to break "the bars of segregation"; and therefore

I, Jerry L. Maynard, II Councilmember At-Large of the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Council do hereby find it fitting that I along with the City of Nashville should recognize the pivotal role of the Tennessee A&I State Fourteen – and all members and participants in the Nashville Student Movement of the 1960's – in breaking the "bars of segregation" in the South.

Jerry L. Maynard, II Councilmember At_Large