

WHEREAS, Frankie Ballard, a 2001 graduate of Lakeview High School and former Western Michigan University Bronco baseball player, began singing Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash songs at a very young age with his dad; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 Frankie Ballard competed in the Kenny Chesney Next Big Star competition, winning the competition for Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Frankie Ballard went on to open on the tours of several recording artists, such as Kenny Chesney, Taylor Swift, and Lady Antebellum, and perform at several venues, including the Grand Ole Opry in 2011; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 Frankie Ballard signed a publishing deal with Sony ATV and a recording contract with Reprise Records in Nashville, Tennessee. Since then, he has released three albums and several singles, which can be found on U.S. and Canadian music charts; and

WHEREAS, Frankie Ballard is always giving back to the Battle Creek community in a variety of ways, most recently helping kick off March is Reading Month at Riverside Elementary School, and performing at the Fast Cars & Guitars-A Tribute to Brenda Hunt event;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark A. Behnke, Mayor of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, do hereby proclaim the American country music singer-songwriter and guitarist, Frankie Ballard, as an

“HONORARY CITIZEN”

and, with the presentation of an official “Key to the City,” bestow all honors, rights, benefits, and privileges to him as an Honorary Citizen of Battle Creek.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Logo of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, to be affixed this 3rd day of July 2018.

Mark A. Behnke, Mayor

David A. Walters, Vice Mayor