

SPECIAL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHEF DE’UNAKA “PUNKIN” HALEY

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always proud to honor and recognize citizens of Caddo Parish who bring distinction and positive recognition to our community through their talents, perseverance, and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Chef De’unaka “Chef Punkin” Haley, a Shreveport native, is the proud owner of Quisine Queens Catering and The Snack Shack, and also serves as Chef at Abby Singer’s Bistro under the leadership of Executive Chef Niema DiGrazia; and

WHEREAS, Chef Punkin has been passionate about cooking since childhood, first learning in the kitchen alongside her mother and grandmother, where she discovered the power of food to bring people together and the joy of experimenting with flavors and textures; and

WHEREAS, although she does not hold a formal culinary degree, Chef Punkin embodies the truth that success in the kitchen is grounded in energy, work ethic, passion, practice, and mentorship—qualities she has embraced on her journey as a self-taught chef; and

WHEREAS, she sold her first plate in 2015 and officially launched Quisine Queens Catering in 2019, later expanding her ventures with The Snack Shack, serving her well-known Royal Sneaux Cones and other creative dishes; and

WHEREAS, Chef Punkin competed on the August 26th, 2024 episode of Food Network’s hit competition series *Chef Grudge Match*, hosted by Laila Ali, where she faced her boss and mentor, Executive Chef Niema DiGrazia, in a spirited battle that showcased not only her bold culinary creativity but also the respect and deep bond between the two chefs; and

WHEREAS, Chef Punkin’s passion, grit, and innovation led her to victory on national television, bringing pride and recognition to Shreveport and highlighting the extraordinary talent within Caddo Parish’s culinary scene; and

WHEREAS, her journey from home kitchens to national acclaim inspires others to pursue their dreams with determination, reminding aspiring chefs and dreamers alike to “keep trying—you’ll eventually get it right.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby recognize and commend **Chef De’unaka “Chef Punkin” Haley** for her outstanding achievement on *Chef Grudge Match*, for her entrepreneurial spirit, and for representing Caddo Parish with distinction on the national stage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be included in the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission and that a copy be presented to Chef Haley as a lasting tribute to her success, creativity, and dedication to her craft.

ATTEST:

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Commission Clerk

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