

RESOLUTION 34 OF 2021

A RESOLUTION TO THANK MR. JAMES K. ELROD FOR HIS SERVICE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF WILLIS-KNIGHTON HEALTH SYSTEM, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BY: COUNCILMAN JAMES E. GREEN

WHEREAS, James K. Elrod grew up in Port Neches, Texas, and attended Baylor University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Commission in the United States Air Force through ROTC; and

WHEREAS, following military service Mr. Elrod attended Washington University School of Medicine, in St. Louis, Missouri, where he earned a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration. He moved to Shreveport where he was named Administrator of Willis-Knighton Memorial Hospital and on April 12, 1965, he was appointed President and CEO; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elrod's community service has included participation and membership on the following boards: Biomedical Research Institute, Louisiana State Fair Association, Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Committee of One Hundred, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, LSU-Shreveport Foundation, KDAQ Public Radio, Salvation Army and Retail Merchants' Association. In addition, Mr. Elrod has served on the advisory boards of LSU in Shreveport, Southern University at Shreveport, and Bossier Parish Community College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elrod has served on the governing boards of the American Hospital Association (AHA), Voluntary Hospitals of America (VHA), Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) and its affiliated insurance trusts, Chairman of AHA's Region 7 Policy Board and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elrod is the founding president of the Inner-City Entrepreneurial Institute and is an advisor to the Baylor University Program in Health Administration and the James K. Elrod School of Health Administration at LSU in Shreveport. In 2007, Mr. Elrod was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science and Humane Letters by Northwestern State University of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elrod is the author of Breadcrumbs to Cheesecake, a book that details his journey transforming a struggling inner-city neighborhood sanitarium into a nationally-recognized health system. His book has been used in training programs for healthcare administrators. In addition, he has co-authored several articles on hospital management topics for scholarly journals; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID pandemic, Mr. Elrod has overseen the Willis-Knighton operations that have treated more than 65% of all Northwest Louisiana COVID hospitalizations, resulting in providing care for more than 2,000 hospitalized COVID patients as of January 2021, and over 18,000 inpatient days; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elrod has transformed the small neighborhood hospital into a major health system serving the region and is the longest-tenured hospital administrator in the nation. In 2019, he was named a Louisiana Legend by Louisiana Public Broadcasting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due regular and legal session convened that the Shreveport City Council would like to thank Mr. James K. Elrod for his service as president and CEO of Willis-Knighton Health System and the major role that he and Willis-Knighton play in the healthcare, public safety and cultural needs of Shreveport and the entire Ark-La-Tex region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney's Office