

# CITY OF FRESNO

## Office of Council President Mike Karbassi

**WHEREAS**, Ronald D. Caldwell, a devoted public servant, mentor, and community leader, began his distinguished career in 1974 through the guidance and encouragement of his beloved mother, Leola E. Caldwell, with the noble goal of serving his community and making his family proud; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron entered the Fire Academy as a Cadet and, within just three months, was promoted to Firefighter, marking the beginning of a lifelong commitment to public safety and service; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, Ron demonstrated his versatility and dedication by becoming a Certified Alarm Operator, managing radio communications while continuing his duties as a frontline Firefighter; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1996, Ron was promoted to the rank of Firefighter Specialist, entrusted with driving the Fire Engine and Fire Truck, overseeing Fire Prevention, and assisting in Fire Investigations at various Fresno stations, including the Tower District (Station 1), Manchester Center (Station 5), Southwest Fresno (Station 3), Clinton/Vassar (Station 9), Cedar/Butler (Station 8—his favorite), and Marks/Acacia (Station 12); and

**WHEREAS**, Ron continuously pursued higher learning and leadership, attending the Executive Development Institute (EDI), where he was elected Vice President of his class, and later gave back by teaching and mentoring young men and women seeking careers in firefighting; and

**WHEREAS**, he served as a positive role model to his children — Letisha, Christopher, and Ronald Jr. — and was a beacon of inspiration throughout the community; and

**WHEREAS**, after decades of unwavering service, Ron achieved his lifelong dream of becoming Fire Captain in May 2005, a milestone reached shortly after the passing of his mother, making his achievement both proud and bittersweet; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Caldwell faithfully served at Station 12 until his retirement in 2012, leaving behind a legacy of courage, leadership, and integrity; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond his service in the Fire Department, Ron contributed to his community as a small business owner of Pioneer Landscaping and Ron’s Sweet Potato Pies, as well as a team organizer for Pioneer Players and Manor House slow-pitch softball teams; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron worked in various roles outside the department, including Marie Callender’s, McDonald’s (Jensen Ave) for 10 years, and the Fresno Fair for 20 years, and volunteered faithfully with Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life, embodying a lifetime of service and community engagement.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, Mayor Jerry Dyer and the Fresno City Council, do hereby recognize and honor the life of:

# “Ronald D. Caldwell”

in the City of Fresno.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

JERRY DYER, Honorable Mayor

MIKE KARBASSI, Council President

MIGUEL ARIAS, Council Vice President

ANNALISA PEREA, Councilmember District 1

TYLER MAXWELL, Councilmember District 4

BRANDON VANG, Councilmember District 5

NICK RICHARDSON, Councilmember District 6

NELSON ESPARZA, Councilmember District 7