

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, White, Salem and Carlucci and
2 Co-Sponsored by Council Members Freeman, Clark-Murray, Amaro, Boylan,
3 Miller and Gaffney, Jr.:

4
5
6 **RESOLUTION 2023-647-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
8 AND COUNTLESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FORMER CITY
9 COUNCIL MEMBER AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE EVELYN
10 DENISE LEE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

11
12 **WHEREAS,** Evelyn Denise Lee, a Jacksonville native and daughter
13 of John Henry Lee, a World War II Veteran and Sleeping Car Porter,
14 and the former Leanora Daniels, a teacher, attended Duval County
15 Public Schools and attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
16 University; and

17 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Lee was drawn to electoral politics from an early
18 age and spent most of her life involved in campaigns, elections and
19 governance, working on or managing the campaigns of a long list of
20 Democratic candidates at the local, state and national level; and

21 **WHEREAS,** her own entry into political office came in September
22 of 1982 when she was selected by the City Council to fill a vacancy
23 on the body caused by the death of the legendary Council Member Sallye
24 Mathis. She subsequently won her election for a first full term in
25 1983 and thereafter was re-elected to represent District 8 in 1987,
26 1991 and 1995, leaving office in 1999 due to the imposition of a two-
27 term limit on Council Members several years earlier; and

28 **WHEREAS,** in November of 1999 Ms. Lee was elected to represent
29 District 15 of the Florida House of Representatives to fill a vacancy
30 left by the resignation of State Representative Wyllie Frank Clayton
31 Dennis and was re-elected to a full term for 2000-2002. In 2007, she

1 was once again elected to the City Council and re-elected in 2011,
2 leaving office again due to term limits in 2015 after serving a total
3 of 25 years on the Jacksonville City Council, the second longest
4 tenure in the consolidated government era following only Council
5 Member Warren Anthony Jones who served for 28 years; and

6 **WHEREAS,** throughout her years in public office, Ms. Lee carried
7 a well-earned reputation as a tireless and tenacious advocate for her
8 constituents and her District, especially for those in most need of
9 assistance and attention to their issues. She consistently sought and
10 won the resources needed to improve conditions in her District,
11 seeking capital project funding and programmatic attention from City
12 and state departments to ensure that equal resources were provided
13 to all communities. She was especially passionate about fighting
14 blight and deterioration both in her district and throughout the city
15 as a fundamental way to improve the perception of neighborhoods as
16 good places to live and work and to increase the self-esteem and
17 pride of the residents of those neighborhoods; and

18 **WHEREAS,** throughout her lifetime and her decades of public
19 service, Ms. Lee was a passionate representative for her constituents'
20 needs and a formidable advocate for the under-represented, as well
21 as a loyal friend; her passion and dedication to service will long
22 be remembered; now therefore

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

24 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
25 the life and countless accomplishments of former City Council Member
26 and State Representative Evelyn Denise Lee on the occasion of her
27 passing. The Council extends its sincere condolences to Ms. Lee's
28 daughter, grandchildren, family, friends, and countless admirers. Her
29 life of service to the City of Jacksonville and its residents stands
30 as a lasting legacy to her memory.

31 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
2 without the Mayor's signature.

3

4 Form Approved:

5

6 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

9 GC-#1591153-v1-2023-647-A.docx