

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman:

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4 **RESOLUTION 2025-114**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING W.C. GENTRY AND EXPRESSING
6 THE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THE CITY
7 COUNCIL FOR HIS YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE TO
8 THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
9 DATE.

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11 **WHEREAS**, W.C. Gentry has faithfully served the City of
12 Jacksonville for decades as an accomplished attorney, former Duval
13 County School Board Chairman, and member of Jacksonville's many boards
14 and commissions, demonstrating immense dedication and commitment to
15 public service and the citizens of this City; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gentry was instrumental in the original
17 Jacksonville Journey, launched in 2008, serving on its Steering
18 Committee, Oversight Committee, and Education, Truancy, Dropout, and
19 Literacy Subcommittee, which led to massive reductions in crime,
20 school suspensions, and student absenteeism through increased
21 prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation efforts; and

22 **WHEREAS**, built upon the success of the original Jacksonville
23 Journey, Jacksonville Journey Forward was established in 2024, and
24 Mr. Gentry again committed himself to the City as Chair of the Journey
25 Forward Board, dedicated to reducing violence, strengthening
26 neighborhoods, and enhancing overall quality of life for all
27 residents; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gentry's service to Jacksonville extends beyond his
29 work with Jacksonville Journey and its newest iteration, having played
30 a key role in establishing the City's first Ethics Commission and
31 serving on numerous boards and commissions, including the Value

1 Adjustment Board, the Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction, the
2 Charter Revision Commission, and the Safety and Crime Reduction
3 Commission; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gentry, having been a teacher and basketball coach
5 before embarking on an illustrious legal career, also served as a
6 Member and Chairman of the Duval County School Board, further
7 showcasing his deep commitment to the well-being and education of
8 Jacksonville's youth; and

9 **WHEREAS**, as Mr. Gentry steps down from his position as Chair of
10 the Jacksonville Journey Forward Board, the City Council honors his
11 legacy and his commitment to improving the lives of the residents of
12 Jacksonville, and expresses its gratitude for his decades of service,
13 the impact of which is immeasurable and enduring; now therefore

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

15 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors W.C. Gentry for
16 his years of service to the City of Jacksonville and its citizens,
17 which have resulted in marked improvements in safety and quality of
18 life. The City Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation for
19 Mr. Gentry's dedication to the City of Jacksonville and its citizens.

20 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.

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24 Form Approved:

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26 /s/ Shannon M^{ac}Gillis

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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