

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Ferraro,  
2 Pittman, Newby, Salem, Freeman and Diamond:

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5 **ORDINANCE 2022-795**

6 AN ORDINANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING THE LIFE  
7 AND LEGACY OF FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND  
8 CLERK OF THE COURTS HENRY W. COOK FOR HIS  
9 DECADES OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITY AND  
10 CITIZENS OF JACKSONVILLE; NAMING COMMITTEE  
11 ROOM B ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF CITY HALL IN  
12 MEMORIAM TO HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF  
13 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, Henry W. Cook, a native of Moultrie, Georgia,  
16 graduated from Moultrie High School and earned his bachelor's  
17 degree at Georgia Southwestern State University. He worked for 20  
18 years in Jacksonville's Office of the City Engineer from 1948 to  
19 1968, retiring as an Assistant Engineer, then owned and operated a  
20 commercial art screen processing company for another 20 years from  
21 1968 to 1988; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Cook spent several decades of his life in  
23 elective public service to the citizens of Jacksonville. In 1974 he  
24 was elected to the Jacksonville Civil Service Board, serving as its  
25 Chairman in 1976-77. In 1979, he was elected to the Jacksonville  
26 City Council representing At-Large Group 4 and was re-elected in  
27 1983. Henry W. Cook was twice elected by his colleagues as Council  
28 President (1982-83 and 1986-87), and also served as Chair of the  
29 Jacksonville Waterways Commission and of the Duval County Tourist  
30 Development Council; and

31 **WHEREAS**, in 1988, Mr. Cook was appointed Clerk of the Courts

1 to fill a vacancy in the office and was subsequently elected later  
2 in 1988 to a full term and was re-elected in 1992 and 1996; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Henry W. Cook held numerous leadership positions in  
4 state and national organizations during his many years in elective  
5 office, including serving as President of the Florida League of  
6 Cities and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National  
7 League of Cities, as a member of the National Association of  
8 Counties' Public Safety Committee, and as President of the Florida  
9 Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers; and

10 **WHEREAS**, after his years in elected office were completed,  
11 Henry W. Cook continued to serve the City and the public in a wide  
12 variety of appointed roles, including as a City retiree  
13 representative on the Jacksonville Retirement System Board of  
14 Trustees and as a member of the Council on Elder Affairs; and

15 **WHEREAS**, his long and effective service in a variety of  
16 elected and appointed positions in city government does not even  
17 begin to take into consideration his decades of dedicated service  
18 in civic organizations ranging from the Jacksonville Jaycees (life  
19 member and former President) and Civitan (Charter President) to the  
20 Rotary Club, Spina Bifida Association, Morocco Shrine Temple and  
21 Retired City Employees Association (President); and

22 **WHEREAS**, Henry W. Cook was an accomplished artist,  
23 particularly as a painter of landscapes, and was especially known  
24 for the humorous caricatures he drew of his fellow public servants  
25 and particularly for the honorees of the Spina Bifida Foundation's  
26 annual Celebrity Roast fundraiser; and

27 **WHEREAS**, with Mr. Cook's recent passing at the age of 93, the  
28 city has lost a tremendous public servant and civic leader; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Council would like to honor the life and legacy  
30 of Former Council Member and Clerk of the Courts, Henry W. Cook, by  
31 naming the committee room, now known as "Committee Room B" in City

1 Hall on the first floor, to be known as the "Henry W. Cook Room";  
2 now therefore

3 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

4 **Section 1. Committee Room B, First Floor of City Hall**  
5 **Named the "Henry W. Cook" Committee Room.** The committee room  
6 currently known as "Committee Room B" on the First Floor of City  
7 Hall, located at 117 W. Duval Street, Jacksonville Florida 32202 is  
8 hereby named the "Henry W. Cook Room" in recognition of Mr. Cook's  
9 long career in public service to the City of Jacksonville and its  
10 citizens.

11 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become  
12 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
13 without the Mayor's signature.

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15 Form Approved:

16  
17  /s/ Paige Johnston

18 Office of General Counsel

19 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

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