

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-131**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING
6 JACKSONVILLE SHERIFF'S OFFICE ASSISTANT CHIEF
7 LAKESHA BURTON FOR HER DECADES OF SERVICE ON THE
8 OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN
9 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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11 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville native Lakesha Burton graduated from
12 Wolfson High School where she was the school's Athlete of the Year
13 as a senior, earned her associate's degree from Lake County Community
14 College attending on a basketball scholarship, graduated from the
15 University of Central Florida with a degree in criminal justice, and
16 holds a master's degree in criminology from Florida Metropolitan
17 University; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Burton's life story is a compelling one, overcoming
19 childhood abuse, teen motherhood and an arrest record to become a
20 Jacksonville Sheriff's officer through the JSO's minority sponsorship
21 program and with the personal assistance and mentorship of former
22 Sheriff Nat Glover, who saw potential in a young woman interested in
23 law enforcement and helping her community; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Lakesha Burton holds the distinctions of having been
25 the fourth African American female to obtain the rank of police
26 sergeant, the second to reach the rank of police lieutenant and the
27 fourth to be appointed as an Assistant Chief in the over 190 years
28 of law enforcement in Duval County. Her life came full circle in 2015
29 when she became the first female Executive Director of the Police
30 Athletic League (PAL) of Jacksonville, leading the organization that
31 helped her to turn her life around as a teenager and set her on the

1 path to a law enforcement career; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Chief Burton has had a wide range of experiences in her
3 23 years with the JSO, from a patrol officer, school resource officer
4 sergeant, and burglary detective to Administrative Lieutenant of Zone
5 5, Commander of Zone 2 and Assistant Chief of the Community Engagement
6 Section. In all of those roles and more she has performed admirably
7 and provided outstanding service to the JSO and the City; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Chief Burton is also extremely active in community
9 service in a wide variety of ways. Just a small sampling of her
10 community roles includes board membership on the Firehouse Subs Public
11 Safety Foundation, the Police Athletic League, Read USA, Save Our
12 Sons, and the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center Leadership Council;
13 volunteering with the Clara White Mission and American Cancer Society;
14 and being a sexual assault/domestic violence victim's advocate. In
15 memory of her twin sister who died after a brave struggle with
16 cerebral palsy, she and her husband, retired JSO Assistant Chief Greg
17 Burton, founded Tesha's Hands, a not-for-profit dedicated to serving
18 those facing the same challenges with cerebral palsy that faced her
19 sister; now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends JSO
22 Assistant Chief Lakesha Burton for her 23 years of outstanding service
23 to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Jacksonville on the
24 occasion of her retirement from the force. Chief Burton's life serves
25 as an inspiration to all those facing daunting challenges that those
26 challenges can be overcome with faith, persistence and hard work, and
27 that success is possible. The City extends its best wishes for her
28 continued health and happiness as she begins a new phase of life.

29 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
30 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
31 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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