

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney:
2
3

4 **RESOLUTION 2022-222**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE PUBLIC
6 SERVICE CAREER OF STATE SENATOR AUDREY GIBSON ON
7 THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE FLORIDA
8 SENATE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Audrey Gibson, a Jacksonville native whose father was
11 an educator at Douglas Anderson High School and whose mother was a
12 nursing instructor at the Brewster School of Nursing and later a dean
13 at Florida Junior College, earned an associate's degree from Florida
14 State College at Jacksonville and received her bachelor's degree in
15 criminology from Florida State University; and

16 **WHEREAS**, moving to California, Ms. Gibson worked first in the
17 Orange County District Attorney's Office and then as a district office
18 administrator for a Congressman in Compton, California before making
19 an unsuccessful run for a seat in the California State Assembly; and

20 **WHEREAS**, returning to Jacksonville, Audrey Gibson took a
21 position as a Business Community Liaison for the Jacksonville Job
22 Corps and then as a paralegal with a prominent Jacksonville law firm,
23 and began re-integrating herself into her hometown and its issues;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, her first electoral success was achieved when she was
26 elected to the Florida House of Representatives' 15th District in 2002
27 on a platform emphasizing creation of well-paying jobs, workforce
28 development, improved funding for education, and "people issues." She
29 was re-elected three more times and after being term-limited in the
30 House in 2010, successfully ran and was elected to the Florida Senate
31 in 2011 in a special election to fill the vacant 1st District, which

1 has since been redrawn twice and had her representing the 9th and now
2 the 6th District; and

3 **WHEREAS**, throughout her career in the Florida Legislature,
4 Representative and now Senator Gibson has developed a reputation as
5 a savvy legislator not afraid to “cross the aisle” and work with
6 legislators of both parties to find common ground and achieve the
7 best possible outcomes for Florida’s citizens. That reputation as a
8 consensus builder sincerely interested in getting things done while
9 remaining a forceful advocate for issues important to her party led
10 to her election in 2018 as Senate Minority Leader by the body’s
11 Democrats; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in addition to her work in the legislature, Audrey
13 Gibson has been extremely active in the community, holding
14 affiliations with numerous agencies working on causes in which she
15 believes, from serving on the board of Community Hospice of Northeast
16 Florida and the Scenic Jacksonville Advisory Board to the Northwest
17 Jacksonville Community Development Corporation and the Jacksonville
18 Public Library Advisory Board. Because of her effective leadership
19 and advocacy, she has been the recipient of awards and honors too
20 numerous to even begin to mention; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Senator Gibson has been a powerful advocate for the
22 interests of the Jacksonville area and has championed numerous causes
23 at the state level on behalf of the citizens of Florida, including
24 education funding, small business development and economic
25 opportunity, elder care safety issues, criminal justice integrity
26 review, and many others, always promoting prosperity, safety, and
27 opportunity for Floridians to improve their quality of life; now
28 therefore

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

30 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends the
31 public service career of Audrey Gibson and expresses its profound

