

1 Introduced by Council Members Schellenberg, White, Morgan, Ferraro,
2 Love, Anderson, Gaffney, Newby, Bowman, Crescimbeni, Becton,
3 Hazouri, Brosche, Pittman, Gulliford, Boyer, Dennis, Freeman and
4 Wilson:

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7 **RESOLUTION 2019-405-A**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING FIRE
9 CHIEF KURTIS WILSON ON HIS 25 YEARS OF
10 OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE
11 AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
12 RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Kurtis Wilson received his EMT, firefighter and
15 paramedic training at the City's fire academy at Florida Community
16 College at Jacksonville, later earned an A.S. degree in fire
17 science from the renamed Florida State College at Jacksonville, and
18 earned his bachelor's degree in public administration from Flagler
19 College; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Chief Wilson began his firefighting career with the
21 City of Fernandina Beach Fire and Rescue Department in 1993 before
22 joining the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department in 1994 as a
23 firefighter assigned to Engine 50. He was promoted to Engineer in
24 1996, to Lieutenant in 1998 and to Captain in 2003, where he
25 commanded Tower Ladder 21 for eight years. He spent many years
26 sharing his breadth of knowledge as an instructor at the fire
27 academy and in other venues, particularly in the areas of hazardous
28 materials, chemistry and air monitoring; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in 2011 Mr. Wilson was appointed as Division Chief of
30 Administrative Services and later that year as Division Chief of
31 Fire Prevention/Fire Marshal for two years. In 2013 he was

1 appointed Division Chief of Operations, managing the day-to-day
2 operations of over 1,000 firefighters and civilian employees in one
3 of the largest fire departments in the country. Chief Wilson was
4 appointed by Mayor Curry as Director of the Fire and Rescue
5 Department/Fire Chief in 2015; and

6 **WHEREAS**, throughout his stellar career with the JFRD, Chief
7 Wilson has been recognized for his leadership abilities and his
8 innovations that produced operational efficiencies and cost
9 savings. He was presented the S.A.R. Firefighter of the Year Award
10 in 2010 for developing and delivering the "Surviving Your Career"
11 program for the JFRD's members and received the Andy Graham
12 Distinguished Service Award in 2011; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in recent years Chief Wilson has overseen the
14 construction of several new fire stations and the addition of new
15 engine and rescue companies to serve the needs of the ever-growing
16 city, to reduce response times and achieve greater ISO ratings; has
17 led the department to achieving an ISO rating of 1, making
18 Jacksonville the largest city in the U.S. to achieve the highest
19 rating available; and oversaw the department's responses to two
20 hurricanes in two years; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Chief Wilson has recently announced his retirement
22 after a long and distinguished career with the Fire and Rescue
23 Department; now therefore

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

25 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
26 commends Fire Chief Kurtis Wilson on his 25 years of outstanding
27 service to Jacksonville's citizens and to the Fire and Rescue
28 Department upon the occasion of his retirement. The City Council
29 thanks Chief Wilson for his years of wise counsel, cooperation and
30 open, honest communication with the Council in seeking the best
31 ways to serve and protect Jacksonville's citizens.

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

4 Form Approved:

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6 /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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