

Introduced by Council Member Johnson:

**RESOLUTION 2025-748**

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOE AND ADA  
LANG: PARENTS, PARTNERS, AND PEOPLE OF FAITH,  
AND RECOGNIZING THEIR LIVES AND LEGACY,  
ACKNOWLEDGING THE VIOLENCE THAT TOOK THEIR LIVES  
IN 1921, AND AFFIRMING THE CITY OF  
JACKSONVILLE'S COMMITMENT TO REMEMBRANCE,  
TRUTH, AND HEALING; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, Joe and Ada Lang, an African American couple raising  
six children in Jacksonville's Dinsmore community, sought to build  
lives defined by family, faith, and hard work, with their days rooted  
in love and the promise of tomorrow; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 28, 1921, their home was invaded by racial  
terror, and both Joe and Ada were murdered in cold blood, their  
children fleeing into the fields, scattered, traumatized, and forever  
shaped by violence that the law refused to name; and

**WHEREAS**, the accused faced what newspapers called a "scandalous  
murder trial," but an all-white jury acquitted them, leaving the Lang  
family denied justice, silenced by erasure, and haunted by questions  
that lingered for generations; and

**WHEREAS**, for decades the story of Joe and Ada Lang lived only  
in whispers, in fading clippings, and fractured memory, until recent  
work by the Jacksonville Community Remembrance Project, in  
partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative, helped to restore  
their truth and return their names to the conscience of this city;  
and

**WHEREAS**, historian Dr. David Jamison of Edward Waters

1 University, working alongside the Langs' great-granddaughter, Maliza  
2 Lang McMillan, led an oral history project that unearthed the family's  
3 story, stitching together memory, testimony, and scholarship into a  
4 narrative long buried by silence; and

5 **WHEREAS**, remembrance is both lament and labor, the Jacksonville  
6 Community Remembrance Project has led this city to confront its  
7 history, to connect with descendants, and to stand in witness at  
8 ceremonies of soil, song, and story; and

9 **WHEREAS**, on September 14, 2025, the Jacksonville community  
10 gathered at a soil collection ceremony to honor Joe and Ada Lang,  
11 placing earth from the site of their deaths into jars that bear their  
12 names, one to remain here in Jacksonville, and the other to join the  
13 sacred soil at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in  
14 Montgomery, Alabama; and

15 **WHEREAS**, this act of remembrance is a vow that Joe and Ada Lang  
16 will never again be buried in silence, that their memory will guide  
17 us toward a more just, inclusive, and humane future, and that  
18 Jacksonville will be a city where truth-telling is the soil of  
19 healing; now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby formally honors and  
22 remembers Joe and Ada Lang, affirming their humanity, dignity, and  
23 the enduring significance of their lives. The Council expresses its  
24 deepest sympathy to the descendants of Joe and Ada Lang, and affirms  
25 its commitment to truth-telling, remembrance, and community healing,  
26 acknowledging the work of Dr. David Jamison, the Jacksonville  
27 Community Remembrance Project, and the Equal Justice Initiative.

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

Form Approved:

/s/ Shannon MacGillis

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

GC-#1710354-v2-Honoring\_Joe\_and\_Ada\_Lang\_-\_Johnson\_(Reso)