

1 Introduced by Council Member Amaro and Co-Sponsored by Council Members
2 Miller, Gaffney, Jr. and Johnson:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2024-857-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
7 PASSING OF ELDER MARY JEAN MATHIS JONES, FIRST
8 LADY OF PHILIPPIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH; REQUESTING
9 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING
10 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

11
12 **WHEREAS,** Mary Jean Mathis Jones grew up in Jacksonville, and
13 she attended Matthew Gilbert High School and Florida Community
14 College; and

15 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones was the matriarch of the Jones
16 family, she shared 47 years of wedded bliss with Bishop Virgil Jones,
17 and together they raised Latisa (Kevin) McKenzie; Aaron (Stephanie);
18 Virgil, Jr. (LaStocia), and Jermel (Courtney) Jones, and were later
19 blessed with 8 grandchildren; and

20 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones was a woman of unwavering faith who
21 received salvation in 1977, she had great zeal to evangelize and
22 share the gospel, and she shared the good news throughout the City;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones was a staunch advocate for children
25 and was instrumental in establishing Vacation Bible School, the Back
26 to School Rally, the Adopt-A-Child program, tutoring and other
27 programs at Philipppian Community Church; and

28 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones encouraged women's spiritual
29 empowerment, she was constantly at her husband's side providing
30 assistance in whatever area needed, and she served as a guiding mentor
31 for new converts; and

1 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones demonstrated her faith with acts of
2 service, she always led with grace, love and compassion, and she was
3 known for her strength, perseverance, and diligence for the work of
4 God; and

5 **WHEREAS,** on Sunday October 13, 2024, the beloved First Lady,
6 Elder Mary Jean Mathis Jones transitioned after an inspirational
7 life, leaving a legacy that will be remembered for generations to
8 come; now therefore

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

10 **Section 1.** The Council hereby honors the life of Elder Mary
11 Jean Mathis Jones, the First Lady of Philipian Community Church, a
12 loving wife, dedicated mother, a pillar of the community, and a dear
13 friend to so many. The City Council extends condolences to the Jones
14 family and friends, congregants, and to all mourning her passing.

15 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
16 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
17 introduction of this legislation is requested so that this Resolution
18 can be presented to the Jones family at the memorial service.

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

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23 Form Approved:

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25 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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