

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman & Co-Sponsored by Council Members
2 Morgan, Diamond, and Becton:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2021-610-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
7 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FOOTBALL PLAYER AND COACH
8 LIN-J SHELL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, a native of Orlando, Florida, Lin-J Shell graduated
11 from Edgewater High School and was recruited to play football at
12 Jacksonville University, where, as a defensive back, he set JU Dolphin
13 records for interceptions and punt return yardage and was twice named
14 to the Pioneer Football League All-Conference Team. He was inducted
15 into the JU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013; and

16 **WHEREAS**, after graduating from JU, Mr. Shell spent more than a
17 decade playing professionally in the Arena League and the Canadian
18 Football League, where he was twice named to the All-Star Team while
19 playing with the Toronto Argonauts and earned a championship ring
20 with the Calgary Stampeders, helping the team win the CFL's Grey Cup
21 in 2014; and

22 **WHEREAS**, following his professional football career, Lin-J Shell
23 returned to Jacksonville to become a high school teacher and football
24 coach at Ribault High School, where he unexpectedly was tapped to be
25 the interim head coach just before the start of the 2019 season, and
26 most recently at Andrew Jackson High School; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Shell, formerly the Dean of Boys at Ribault High
28 School, was credited with averting a potential tragedy at the school
29 in 2018 when he witnessed a woman trespassing on the campus carrying
30 a gun and attempting to intervene in a fight among students in the
31 gymnasium. Mr. Shell engaged the woman, escorted her out of the

1 building and away from the students, and alerted a nearby school
2 resource officer who took the woman into custody without any shots
3 being fired; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Lin-J Shell was well known as a mentor, leader and
5 high-energy motivator who touched the lives of hundreds of students
6 during his relatively brief teaching and coaching career with his
7 care, compassion, and desire to help each young person to become the
8 best that he or she could be. His death at the age of 39 has been a
9 tremendous shock to the community and is a great loss of a young and
10 talented leader; now therefore

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

12 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
13 the life and accomplishments of football player, coach, teacher and
14 mentor Lin-J Shell, and extends its deepest condolences to his family
15 and friends, to the Ribault High School community, and to all who
16 were positively influenced by his life. His example of positivity,
17 boundless energy, and concern for others should serve as an example
18 to everyone to continue the good work his life represented.

19 **Section 2. 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/ Paige H. Johnston

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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