

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-743**

5 A RESOLUTION WELCOMING THE RETURN OF BETHUNE-
6 COOKMAN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TO JACKSONVILLE TO
7 FACE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT EVERBANK STADIUM;
8 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS**, for several decades from the 1980s through the
12 mid-2000s the Bethune-Cookman University ("BCU") football team hosted
13 annual games in Jacksonville known as the Gateway Classic, with the
14 Wildcats facing a variety of Historically Black Colleges and
15 Universities (HBCUs) from around the nation; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 2022 the BCU Wildcats returned to Jacksonville after
17 an absence of more than a decade to face Head Coach Deion Sanders'
18 Jackson State Tigers; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Wildcats return to EverBank Stadium again on
20 October 21, 2023, to face the Southern University Jaguars from Baton
21 Rouge, Louisiana, which will mark the first time the two teams have
22 faced off on the gridiron since their last meeting in Jacksonville
23 in 2006; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville is pleased and proud to again
25 host Bethune-Cookman University and Southern University football and
26 the fans of both teams to our city for an exciting afternoon of
27 football and pageantry that only HBCUs can provide, including an
28 extended halftime show featuring the Bethune-Cookman Marching
29 Wildcats and the Southern University Human Jukebox Marching Band; now
30 therefore

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

1 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby welcomes the return of
2 the Bethune-Cookman University Wildcats to Jacksonville to face the
3 Southern University Jaguars, and extends best wishes to the teams,
4 the bands, the universities and their many fans for an exciting and
5 fun-filled day in our city.

6 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
7 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 (Emergency).** Emergency passage upon
8 introduction of this Resolution is requested in order to extend
9 welcome to the participants and visitors to the game, which will be
10 held before the next City Council passage opportunity.

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

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15 Form Approved:

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17 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

18 Office of General Counsel

19 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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