

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Amaro, Arias, Boylan, J. Carlucci, Carlucci, Carrico, Clark-
3 Murray, Diamond, Gaffney, Jr., Gay, Howland, Johnson, Lahnen, Miller,
4 Peluso, Pittman, Salem and White and amended on the Floor of Council:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2025-114-A**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING W.C. GENTRY AND EXPRESSING
9 THE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THE CITY
10 COUNCIL FOR HIS YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE TO
11 THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
12 DATE.
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14 **WHEREAS**, W.C. Gentry has faithfully served the City of
15 Jacksonville for decades as an accomplished attorney, former Duval
16 County School Board Chairman, and member of Jacksonville's many boards
17 and commissions, demonstrating immense dedication and commitment to
18 public service and the citizens of this City; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gentry was instrumental in the original
20 Jacksonville Journey, launched in 2008, serving on its Steering
21 Committee, Oversight Committee, and Education, Truancy, Dropout, and
22 Literacy Subcommittee, which led to massive reductions in crime,
23 school suspensions, and student absenteeism through increased
24 prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation efforts; and

25 **WHEREAS**, built upon the success of the original Jacksonville
26 Journey, Jacksonville Journey Forward was established in 2024, and
27 Mr. Gentry again committed himself to the City as Chair of the Journey
28 Forward Board, dedicated to reducing violence, strengthening
29 neighborhoods, and enhancing overall quality of life for all
30 residents; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gentry's service to Jacksonville extends beyond his

1 work with Jacksonville Journey and its newest iteration, having played
2 a key role in establishing the City's first Ethics Commission and
3 serving on numerous boards and commissions, including the Value
4 Adjustment Board, the Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction, the
5 Charter Revision Commission, and the Safety and Crime Reduction
6 Commission; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gentry, having been a teacher and basketball coach
8 before embarking on an illustrious legal career, also served as a
9 Member and Chairman of the Duval County School Board, further
10 showcasing his deep commitment to the well-being and education of
11 Jacksonville's youth; and

12 **WHEREAS**, as Mr. Gentry steps down from his position as Chair of
13 the Jacksonville Journey Forward Board, the City Council honors his
14 legacy and his commitment to improving the lives of the residents of
15 Jacksonville, and expresses its gratitude for his decades of service,
16 the impact of which is immeasurable and enduring; now therefore

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

18 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors W.C. Gentry for
19 his years of service to the City of Jacksonville and its citizens,
20 which have resulted in marked improvements in safety and quality of
21 life. The City Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation for
22 Mr. Gentry's dedication to the City of Jacksonville and its citizens.

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

26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research