

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Becton, Salem, Morgan, Ferraro, Carrico, Priestly Jackson,  
3 DeFoor, Bowman, Dennis, Newby & Freeman:  
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6 **RESOLUTION 2022-131-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING  
8 JACKSONVILLE SHERIFF'S OFFICE ASSISTANT CHIEF  
9 LAKESHA BURTON FOR HER DECADES OF SERVICE ON THE  
10 OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN  
11 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville native Lakesha Burton graduated from  
14 Wolfson High School where she was the school's Athlete of the Year  
15 as a senior, earned her associate's degree from Lake County Community  
16 College attending on a basketball scholarship, graduated from the  
17 University of Central Florida with a degree in criminal justice, and  
18 holds a master's degree in criminology from Florida Metropolitan  
19 University; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Burton's life story is a compelling one, overcoming  
21 childhood abuse, teen motherhood and an arrest record to become a  
22 Jacksonville Sheriff's officer through the JSO's minority sponsorship  
23 program and with the personal assistance and mentorship of former  
24 Sheriff Nat Glover, who saw potential in a young woman interested in  
25 law enforcement and helping her community; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Lakesha Burton holds the distinctions of having been  
27 the fourth African American female to obtain the rank of police  
28 sergeant, the second to reach the rank of police lieutenant and the  
29 fourth to be appointed as an Assistant Chief in the over 190 years  
30 of law enforcement in Duval County. Her life came full circle in 2015  
31 when she became the first female Executive Director of the Police

1 Athletic League (PAL) of Jacksonville, leading the organization that  
2 helped her to turn her life around as a teenager and set her on the  
3 path to a law enforcement career; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Chief Burton has had a wide range of experiences in her  
5 23 years with the JSO, from a patrol officer, school resource officer  
6 sergeant, and burglary detective to Administrative Lieutenant of Zone  
7 5, Commander of Zone 2 and Assistant Chief of the Community Engagement  
8 Section. In all of those roles and more she has performed admirably  
9 and provided outstanding service to the JSO and the City; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Chief Burton is also extremely active in community  
11 service in a wide variety of ways. Just a small sampling of her  
12 community roles includes board membership on the Firehouse Subs Public  
13 Safety Foundation, the Police Athletic League, Read USA, Save Our  
14 Sons, and the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center Leadership Council;  
15 volunteering with the Clara White Mission and American Cancer Society;  
16 and being a sexual assault/domestic violence victim's advocate. In  
17 memory of her twin sister who died after a brave struggle with  
18 cerebral palsy, she and her husband, retired JSO Assistant Chief Greg  
19 Burton, founded Tesha's Hands, a not-for-profit dedicated to serving  
20 those facing the same challenges with cerebral palsy that faced her  
21 sister; now therefore

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

23 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends JSO  
24 Assistant Chief Lakesha Burton for her 23 years of outstanding service  
25 to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Jacksonville on the  
26 occasion of her retirement from the force. Chief Burton's life serves  
27 as an inspiration to all those facing daunting challenges that those  
28 challenges can be overcome with faith, persistence and hard work, and  
29 that success is possible. The City extends its best wishes for her  
30 continued health and happiness as she begins a new phase of life.

31 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

