

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Salem, Boylan, White, Johnson, Amaro, J. Carlucci, Miller,
3 Howland and Peluso:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2023-681-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
8 PASSING OF MARVIN CECIL "CEREE" HARDEN III;
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS,** Marvin Cecil "Ceree" Harden III was a native of
12 Jacksonville, born on May 4, 1953, to M.C. and Edith Harden, and he
13 grew up in the Northside and Arlington neighborhoods with his three
14 siblings Paul, Steve and Donna; and

15 **WHEREAS,** a proud graduate of Terry Parker High School and the
16 University of Florida, Ceree Harden stepped in at the age of 26 to
17 take over Harden Insurance Services after his father's sudden death.
18 Under his guidance, the company grew to be one of the Southeast's
19 most prominent independent insurance brokerage and consulting firms.
20 His leadership fostered a deep sense of loyalty that led many to
21 dedicate their entire careers to the firm, creating not just a
22 workplace but a second family for many; and

23 **WHEREAS,** Ceree Harden embodied the spirit of a true servant
24 leader, serving on numerous entities including the Baptist Health
25 System Board, the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission,
26 Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville Community
27 Council's Quality of Life Committee, the Florida Association of
28 Insurance Agents, the boards of Jacksonville Port Authority, FPIC
29 Insurance Group, Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Episcopal School
30 of Jacksonville, and The River Club. Additionally, he was honored
31 with the prestigious Hope Award, the National Multiple Sclerosis

1 Society's highest tribute for exceptional civic and community
2 service; and

3 **WHEREAS,** Ceree Harden's family was his ultimate joy and
4 motivation, he shared a close life-long bond with his siblings, he
5 adored his wife Shannon, he treasured each of his children, and doted
6 on his grandchildren. He shared his joy of traveling with his big
7 family, with especially memorable trips to Vancouver, Canada, the
8 Tuscan countryside, and Sea Island. Ceree Harden's legacy lives on
9 in the hearts of his family, friends, and the city he so profoundly
10 impacted; now therefore

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

12 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life
13 well lived by Marvin Cecil "Ceree" Harden III, a deeply beloved
14 father, husband, brother, grandfather, uncle, and friend. Ceree
15 Harden was a pillar of our community, a prominent business and civic
16 leader and tireless community servant. Jacksonville City Council
17 extends condolences to the Harden family upon his passing, with the
18 wish that his memory provides comfort to those grieving his loss
19 and that his legacy of service will carry on as a family tradition.

20 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.

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24 Form Approved:

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26 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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