

1 Introduced by Council Member Priestly Jackson and Co-Sponsored by  
2 Council Members Dennis, DeFoor, Carlucci, Newby, Pittman, Boylan,  
3 Becton, Salem and Bowman:  
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6 **RESOLUTION 2020-441**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE  
8 LIFE, WORK, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF LEGENDARY  
9 RIBAUTL HIGH SCHOOL TRACK COACH, EDUCATOR, AND  
10 PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY, GWENDOLYN DELORES  
11 MAXWELL, FOR HER INDELIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
12 RIBAUTL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS AND THE  
13 JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
14 DATE.  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Gwendolyn Delores Maxwell was born on January 25,  
17 1934 in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. She was the only child of her  
18 parents, Alberta Maxwell and William Richardson. Following the  
19 completion of her studies at Florida Memorial College, Ms. Maxwell  
20 began her life's work as an educator, sports coach, and mentor  
21 touching the lives of countless students over the tenure of her  
22 impressive thirty-six-year teaching career; and

23 **WHEREAS**, prior to her title-winning tenure at Ribault, Ms.  
24 Maxwell taught at multiple Jacksonville area high schools,  
25 including Butler, Old Stanton, and Fernandina Beach. It is her time  
26 at Ribault High School as a physical education teacher and track  
27 coach, however, that leaves an indelible mark on Jacksonville  
28 history. She was known by her students, the athletes that she  
29 taught, and her peers as being a dedicated educator and committed  
30 to not only the academic and sporting successes of her students,  
31 but strived to better all aspects of her students' lives; and

1           **WHEREAS**, Ms. Maxwell's career is highlighted by her excellence  
2 as a track and field coach. The Ribault Trojans won their first  
3 track and field state championship in 1976 when Ms. Maxwell was the  
4 assistant coach of the girl's team. The following year, she took  
5 over as the Head Girls Track Coach leading the Trojans to a second  
6 consecutive state championship title. Ms. Maxwell would go on to  
7 lead the Trojans to winning three additional state championship  
8 titles in 1990, 1992, and 1993. Additionally, under Ms. Maxwell,  
9 the team finished as runner-up in the state championship four times  
10 in 1982, 1988, 1991, and 1995. Ms. Maxwell's Trojans won a total of  
11 269 track meets, including 15 conference meets, 13 district meets  
12 and 12 regional championships. Her tenure as Head Girls Track Coach  
13 ended in 1997 upon her retirement; and

14           **WHEREAS**, during her coaching career, Ms. Maxwell accumulated  
15 many awards and accolades. Two athletes that she coached, Chandra  
16 Cheeseborough and Dannette Young, went on to compete in the  
17 Olympics. Ms. Maxwell was inducted into the Ribault Athletic Hall  
18 of Fame in 2018 and the Florida Athletic Coaches Association Hall  
19 of Fame in 1995. She was a five-time winner of the Dairy Farmers  
20 Coach of the Year Award and was the Florida representative for  
21 national track coach of the year three times in 1983, 1986, and  
22 1992. Furthermore, Ms. Maxwell has won more state track titles than  
23 any other coach in the northeast Florida area. Following her  
24 retirement, Ms. Maxwell continued to live in the Jacksonville area.  
25 On June 16, 2020, Gwendolyn Delores Maxwell passed away at the age  
26 of 86; now therefore

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

28           **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and  
29 commemorates the life, work, and achievements of legendary Ribault  
30 High School track coach, educator, and pillar of the community,  
31 Gwendolyn Delores Maxwell, for her indelible contributions to

1 Ribault High School sports and the Jacksonville community.

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

5 Form Approved:

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7 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

8 Office of General Counsel

9 Legislation Prepared By: Anthony J. Baltiero, City Council Research

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