

1 Introduced by Council Member Newby and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Morgan, Hazouri, and Becton:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2019-589-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE
7 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF BISHOP VIRGIL C.
8 JONES, SR.; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Virgil C. Jones, a Florida native, attended various
11 local schools in Jacksonville, Marianna, and Panama City; however,
12 he graduated from Booker T. Washington Senior High School in
13 Pensacola, Florida. He attended Edward Waters College in
14 Jacksonville, Florida and majored in Mathematics. His charismatic
15 leadership style, zeal, and faithfulness earned him Honorary
16 Doctorates of Divinity from St. Thomas Christian College of
17 Jacksonville, Florida, and Z. E. Brown Bible College of
18 Tallahassee, Florida. Virgil C. Jones met a stunning woman named
19 Mary Mathis, who became his partner and most prized jewel. This
20 dynamic and powerful union produced four amazing children (Latisa,
21 Aaron, Virgil, Jr., and Jermel) and eight grandchildren; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in 1977, life for Virgil Jones would change because
23 of his willingness to be moved by the Spirit. With spiritual
24 support and guidance from his pastor and mentor, Dr. Lawrence C.
25 Callahan, Sr., Minister Jones accepted his call to ministry. Eager
26 to minister throughout Jacksonville and surrounding areas, Elder
27 Jones established Colossians Community Church. In the late 1980s,
28 Elder Jones united with his lifelong friend and spiritual brother,
29 Bishop Callahan to expand Philippian Community Church's (PCC) reach
30 and impact in the community. Elder Jones faithfully served Bishop
31 Callahan and PCC for twenty years. After Bishop Callahan's death,

1 the elders of the church with spiritual guidance voted for Elder
2 Virgil C. Jones, Sr., as the next senior pastor. With Bishop
3 Jones's faithfulness to the ministry, love for his friend, and
4 commitment to the community, Philippian Community Church continues
5 to flourish with the expansion of its membership, facilities,
6 ministries, and programs for the youth; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Philippi Koinonia (PK) was organized in 2008 under
8 the leadership of Bishop Virgil Calvin Jones, Sr. The purpose of
9 the organization was to bring together the ministries that were
10 birthed through Philippian Community Church. As the organization
11 grew, the need to include other ministries was acknowledged.
12 Philippi Koinonia is a multicultural fellowship of Christian
13 pastors that recognize a need for covenant fathering. The goal of
14 PK is to build a covenant relationship to build spiritual
15 leadership. PK encourages the independent and distinct identity of
16 each ministry. The ministries of PK work interdependently to
17 promote a strong network and establish relationships by inviting
18 and accepting diverse ethnicities and experiences. PK is committed
19 to the spirit of excellence in all things, integrity one toward
20 another and exhibiting a character above reproach; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Bishop and Lady Jones have labored, loved, and led
22 the Philippian Community Church for over 18 years, and currently
23 oversee a total of 21 ministries locally and throughout the State
24 of Florida. Bishop Jones is a man of honor, integrity, and faith.
25 He seeks to encourage others to develop and enhance their spiritual
26 connection with the heavenly Father for a life-changing experience;
27 now therefore

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

29 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
30 commends Bishop Dr. Virgil C. Jones, Sr. for his unwavering love,
31 support, and leadership as the pastor of Philippian Community

1 Church for 18 years. We extend our best wishes for 18 more years of
2 grace, growth, and giving.

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

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7 Form Approved:

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10 /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Yvonne P. Mitchell, City Council Research

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