

1 Introduced by Council Member Peluso:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-551**

5 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 158<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
6 OF HISTORIC MOUNT OLIVE AFRICAN METHODIST  
7 EPISCOPAL CHURCH; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Historic Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church  
10 is among Jacksonville's oldest African American congregations,  
11 tracing its origins to 1868 when Pastor Henry Floyd started a house  
12 of prayer in his residence at Old Hardee's Mill Quarter along the St.  
13 Johns River, and would become a cornerstone of the spiritual and  
14 civic life of Jacksonville's Eastside; and

15 **WHEREAS**, for 158 years, Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church has faithfully  
16 served generations of Jacksonville residents, providing worship,  
17 fellowship, charity and guidance for the community, while helping  
18 shape the religious and cultural heritage of the City; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the congregation's history is deeply intertwined with  
20 the growth and development of Jacksonville's African American  
21 community and reflects the perseverance, faith, and determination of  
22 those who built institutions of hope and opportunity during periods  
23 of social transformation; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church has been associated with  
25 influential leaders in Jacksonville's history, including noted  
26 attorney, legislator, and minister, Joseph Edward Lee, whose life  
27 exemplified the Church's commitment to leadership and public service;  
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, the congregation also holds a significant place in the  
30 legacy of A. Philip Randolph, whose family worshipped within the Mt.  
31 Olive faith community and whose early experiences helped shape a life

1 dedicated to justice, equality, and human dignity; and

2       **WHEREAS**, among those connected to the church's rich history is  
3 Abraham Lincoln Lewis, the pioneering businessman, philanthropist,  
4 and founder of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company, who had been  
5 an active member and strong financial supporter of the church, and  
6 whose leadership and vision helped shape Jacksonville's African  
7 American business and civic communities; and

8       **WHEREAS**, the historic sanctuary at 841 Franklin Street stands  
9 as an exemplary architectural landmark designed by Richard Lewis  
10 Brown, widely recognized as Jacksonville's first known Black  
11 architect and a distinguished civic leader, who also served in the  
12 Florida House of Representatives; and

13       **WHEREAS**, construction of the present historic structure began  
14 in the early 1920s, yielding one of Jacksonville's most significant  
15 examples of African American architectural achievement, contributing  
16 to the historic character and cultural identity of the Eastside  
17 community; and

18       **WHEREAS**, in recognition of its architectural and historical  
19 significance, the Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church building was designated a  
20 local historic landmark by the Jacksonville City Council in 2023,  
21 preserving a vital chapter of Jacksonville's history for future  
22 generations; and

23       **WHEREAS**, the 158<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Historic Mt. Olive A.M.E.  
24 Church provides an opportunity for the City of Jacksonville to  
25 celebrate the congregation's enduring legacy of faith, service,  
26 leadership, and community empowerment, and to honor the generations  
27 of church leaders, congregants, and supporters whose dedication has  
28 sustained this historic institution for over a century; now, therefore

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

30       **Section 1.**       The City Council hereby commemorates the 158<sup>th</sup>  
31 Anniversary of Historic Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal

1 Church, recognizing its extraordinary contributions to the spiritual,  
2 cultural, and civic life of Jacksonville since the church's founding  
3 in 1868.

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

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8 Form Approved:

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10 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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