

Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Amaro and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Arias, Boylan, J. Carlucci, Carlucci, Carrico, Clark-Murray, Diamond, Freeman, Gaffney, Jr., Gay, Howland, Lahnen, Miller, Peluso, Pittman, Salem and White and amended on the Floor of Council:

**RESOLUTION 2024-995-A**

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHIEF APOSTLE, BISHOP ARTHUR T. JONES, SR. AND EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY, CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS,** Chief Apostle, Bishop Arthur T. Jones, Sr. was the Founder and Prelate of All People International Church (APIC), Inc. and the Father's Covenant International Fellowship (FCIF), headquartered in Jacksonville. Called to a preaching ministry at the age of 16, he dedicated more than 50 years to leading APIC, which he founded in his parents' garage at age 25. Shortly thereafter, in 1976 their little church moved to its current Edgewood Avenue location; and

**WHEREAS,** APIC's vision is to serve God, the community, and the world with integrity and with the utmost excellence. It does this through a variety of internal and external ministries, including the Sons of Valor mentoring and coaching ministry for men in need, a weekly outreach stimulus ministry that feeds and clothes the needy in the community, and numerous programs to tend to the needs of his congregation; and

**WHEREAS,** Bishop Jones, Sr. was the Presiding Bishop of five

1 churches in Jacksonville, one in Mableton, Georgia, one chartered  
2 church in Grange Westmoreland, Jamaica, forty-five churches and two  
3 orphanages in Haiti, and one church in Brasilia, Brazil until his  
4 recent untimely death; and

5       **WHEREAS,** known as "a father to the city," Bishop Jones, Sr.  
6 was celebrated for his integrity and ability to inspire others and  
7 was particularly known as a mentor and advisor to other clergy,  
8 passing on his deep faith along with the wisdom and experience gained  
9 by years in ministry to strengthen others in their work; and

10       **WHEREAS,** Bishop Jones, Sr. was the recipient of many honors  
11 for his dedication and good works throughout his long and  
12 distinguished career, including an honorary Doctorate in Divinity  
13 awarded by Truth Bible College Seminary, the My Sons Ministry Award,  
14 the Abba Award, the Vision for Excellence Award by Public Defender  
15 Matt Shirk, and the Florida Gospel Legend Award; and

16       **WHEREAS,** Bishop Jones, Sr. was both the product of and the  
17 producer of ministerial families, being the son of Deacon Roosevelt  
18 C. Jones, Sr. and Presiding Evangelist Essie M. Jones, the husband  
19 of Bishop Sharon P. Jones, and the father of Bishop-Designate Arthur  
20 T. Jones, Jr., (Impact Worship Center), Executive Pastor Ardel Jones  
21 (APIC), and Elder Shantel T. Jones-Cross, National Minister of Music  
22 at All People International Church and the Father's Covenant  
23 International, Inc.; now therefore

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

25       **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates  
26 the life and achievements of Chief Apostle, Bishop Arthur T. Jones,  
27 Sr. of All People International Church, Inc. and the Father's Covenant  
28 International Fellowship for his decades of faithful service to his  
29 congregations and to the City of Jacksonville. The Council also  
30 extends its deepest condolences to his family, congregation, and many  
31 friends and admirers. His example of selfless service and inspiring

1 faith will be long and gratefully remembered.

2       **Section 2.       Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**  
3 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon  
4 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the  
5 emergency is so that condolences may be extended to Bishop Jones,  
6 Sr.'s family and friends in a timely manner upon this unexpected,  
7 sudden news of his passing on Thanksgiving morning.

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

11  
12 Form Approved:

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14           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

15 Office of General Counsel

16 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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