

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Amaro, Salem, Peluso, J.
2 Carlucci, Gaffney, Jr., and Miller:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-703**

6 A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AND COMMENDING MELTONIA
7 JENKINS MAY AND THE LEGENDARY JENKINS FAMILY FOR
8 SIXTY-EIGHT YEARS OF UNPARALLELED CULINARY
9 EXCELLENCE, CULTURAL IMPACT, AND COMMUNITY
10 SERVICE THROUGH JENKINS QUALITY BARBEQUE, AND
11 RECOGNIZING THEIR ENDURING LEGACY AS A
12 CORNERSTONE OF JACKSONVILLE HERITAGE; PROVIDING
13 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville native Melton Jenkins, Jr. was born on
16 December 14, 1923, and through years of dedicated work and
17 determination, nurtured a dream of creating a family-owned restaurant
18 that would serve not only food but also fellowship to the Jacksonville
19 community; and

20 **WHEREAS**, with just \$125, his father's secret mustard-based
21 sauce, and a prayer, Melton and his wife Willie Mae opened the first
22 Jenkins Quality Barbecue in 1957 on Kings Road near Spires Avenue;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, Melton and Willie Mae raised three daughters –
25 Meltonia, Wilhelmina, and Pamela – while building a business rooted
26 in faith, family, and service; Mr. Jenkins himself served faithfully
27 as a deacon at the First New Zion Missionary Baptist Church and
28 supported the broader community through contributions to the Boy
29 Scouts, Edward Waters University, the YMCA, and numerous neighborhood
30 organizations; and
31

1 **WHEREAS**, the Jenkins family grew their enterprise into four
2 beloved Jacksonville locations—two on Kings Road, Pearl Street
3 downtown, and Emerson Street on the Southside—that endured regional
4 growth, historical changes, and economic challenges, while
5 maintaining the quality and consistency that made their restaurants
6 household names; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Jenkins Barbeque became nationally recognized for its
8 oak wood-fired pit cooking and legendary mustard-based sauce, with
9 acclaim from Jacksonville Magazine, Southern Living Magazine, the
10 Forbes Travel Guide, and the Food Network's "50 States of Barbecue";
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, under the leadership of eldest daughter Meltonia
13 Jenkins May, the Jenkins legacy flourished into the next generations,
14 with children and grandchildren carrying forth the family's culinary
15 and entrepreneurial spirit; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Jenkins Quality Barbecue served as more than a
17 restaurant—it was a gathering place where neighbors, families, and
18 friends shared not only meals but also milestones, traditions, and
19 stories that shaped the cultural fabric of Jacksonville; and

20 **WHEREAS**, after sixty-eight years of continuous service, the
21 Jenkins family announced that Jenkins Quality Barbecue would close
22 its doors in 2025, leaving behind an indelible imprint on the city's
23 history and the hearts of its citizens; now therefore

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

25 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby extends its deepest
26 commendation to Meltonia Jenkins May and the entire Jenkins family
27 for their extraordinary contributions to Jacksonville through sixty-
28 eight years of excellence in food, service, and community uplift,
29 recognizing Jenkins Quality Barbecue as both a local treasure and a
30 national culinary landmark.

31 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
2 without the Mayor's signature.

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4 Form Approved:

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6 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

9 GC-#1708055-v2-Jenkins_BBQ_-_Johnson__ (Reso)