

1 Introduced by Council Members Pittman and Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-82**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING DELTA SIGMA
6 THETA, INCORPORATED, AND THE JACKSONVILLE
7 ALUMNAE CHAPTER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 80TH
8 ANNIVERSARY, CELEBRATING EIGHT DECADES OF
9 LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, SCHOLARSHIP, AND SOCIAL
10 ACTION, RECOGNIZING NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL,
11 AND LOCAL IMPACT AND ACKNOWLEDGING A
12 DISTINGUISHED LEGACY OF CIVIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND
13 POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA;
14 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, was founded
17 on January 13, 1913, by twenty-two visionary collegiate women at
18 Howard University, grounded in the principles of scholarship,
19 sisterhood, and service, and committed from its inception to the
20 intellectual, social, and civic advancement of Black women and the
21 communities they serve; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, has grown
23 into a global sisterhood of more than 350,000 predominately Black
24 college-educated women, organized through more than 1,000 collegiate
25 and alumnae chapters across the United States and abroad, whose
26 collective work has shaped public policy, strengthened democratic
27 institutions, and advanced equity and opportunity worldwide; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the Sorority's enduring impact is guided by its Five-
29 Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development, Educational
30 Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and
31 Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement; an

1 intentional framework that has produced measurable, transformative
2 outcomes for families, communities, and nations; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on February 9, 1946, the Alpha Iota Sigma Chapter of
4 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, now known as the
5 Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter, was officially chartered in
6 Jacksonville, Florida, marking the beginning of a proud, powerful,
7 and uninterrupted legacy of service, that spans eighty years of
8 excellence in this city; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta
10 Sorority, Incorporated, has consistently distinguished itself as a
11 cornerstone institution within Jacksonville's civic and nonprofit
12 ecosystem, advancing youth development, educational access, public
13 health awareness, housing stability, cultural enrichment, and civic
14 engagement through innovative, sustained, and community-centered
15 programming; and

16 **WHEREAS**, notable Chapter initiatives include the Miss Delta Teen
17 Pageant, the establishment of Jacksonville's first Head Start
18 program, the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home through
19 Habijax, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention efforts, and the
20 successful establishment of collegiate chapters at Edward Waters
21 University, the University of North Florida, and Jacksonville
22 University, thereby ensuring leadership continuity across
23 generations; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter holds a singular place
25 of honor within Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, through the
26 membership and lifelong service of Founder Winona Cargile Alexander,
27 whose extraordinary life of faith, scholarship, social work, and
28 civic leadership in Jacksonville embodied the very ideals upon which
29 the Sorority was founded; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the charter members and early leaders of the
31 Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter, Florida Cave Alexander, Lillie Belle

1 Blackshear, Mozelle Bruton, Thelma Livingston, Willie Lee Lucas,
2 Hazel Overstreet, Fay Solomon, along with instrumental Sorors
3 Gwendolyn Leapheart, Ali Thorpe, and Luella White, laid an unshakable
4 foundation of excellence, discipline, and public service that
5 continues to guide the Chapter's work today; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter is an award-winning
7 body currently led by the 30th President Christina Stallings, whose
8 stewardship reflects a bold, disciplined, and forward-looking
9 commitment to service, collaboration, and measurable impact, ensuring
10 that the Chapter remains both historically rooted and future-focused
11 in its mission; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, has
13 demonstrated extraordinary civic and political leadership in
14 Jacksonville, with Sorors who have answered the call to public service
15 at the highest levels, including former School Board Member Gwen
16 Gibson and Senator Audrey Gibson, former State Representative Willye
17 Frank Clayton Dennis, former City Council Member Dr. Gwen J. Chandler,
18 former School Board Chair and City Council Member Brenda Priestly
19 Jackson, and City Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman, each exemplifying
20 principled leadership, public accountability, and service to the
21 people; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the collective legacy of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
23 Incorporated, in Jacksonville reflects an unbroken continuum of
24 leadership that bridges community service and public office, faith
25 and action, scholarship and policy, thereby shaping the moral,
26 educational, and civic fabric of the city; now therefore

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

28 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
29 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and the Jacksonville
30 Alumnae Chapter upon the occasion of its 80th Anniversary, celebrating
31 eight decades of unwavering commitment to love in action, leadership

1 with purpose, and service with measurable impact. The Council
2 recognizes the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter as a model of civic
3 excellence whose work has strengthened families, expanded
4 opportunity, shaped public policy, and uplifted generations of
5 Jacksonville residents. The legacy of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
6 Incorporated, in Jacksonville stands as a living testament to the
7 power of organized service, educated leadership, and collective
8 responsibility.

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

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13 Form Approved:

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15 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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