

1 Introduced by Council Member Carrico and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Salem, Freeman, Boylan, DeFoor, Newby, Priestly Jackson,
3 Dennis, Pittman, Carlucci, Becton, Morgan, White, Bowman and Hazouri:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2021-190-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING BOLLES
8 SCHOOL JUNIOR TAYLOR RICHARDSON FOR HER
9 OUTSTANDING AND UNPRECEDENTED WORK AS A TEENAGE
10 PHILANTHROPIST AND ADVOCATE FOR "STEM"
11 EDUCATION, LITERACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE;
12 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Taylor Richardson is a high school student at The Bolles
15 School in Jacksonville who is also known as "Astronaut Starbright."
16 She is an advocate, activist, philanthropist and speaker. She wants
17 to be a physician and an astronaut; and

18 **WHEREAS**, since appearing before the Jacksonville City Council
19 to receive a commendatory resolution as a 12-year-old aspiring
20 astronaut and champion for literacy, Taylor Richardson has been a
21 pacesetter for youth philanthropy and STEM (science, technology,
22 engineering and mathematics) advocacy for the past 7 years. She has
23 launched 18 GoFundMe campaigns raising more than \$250,000 in areas
24 including STEM education and awareness for young female minorities,
25 assisting families of health care workers with childcare during the
26 COVID-19 pandemic, and increasing awareness for literacy; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson's service and advocacy work continues
28 to have an incredible trajectory that began when she was nine and
29 attended her first Space Camp in Alabama. Her first fundraiser led
30 to her own book drive - Taylor's Take Flight With A Book - that has
31 collected and donated over 10,000 books within and outside of the

1 U.S. Since then Ms. Richardson has sponsored several full scholarships
2 to send girls to STEM and empowerment camps across the U.S.; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson is also an internationally known
4 advocate for girls in STEM. She is the youngest recipient of the
5 *Florida Times-Union* EVE Award's first-time "Aspiring EVE" winner in
6 June 2019. She is a 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 mentee with the
7 nationally recognized Black Girls Rock, Black Girls LEAD conference.
8 In July 2019 she helped fund fees for other Black girls to attend
9 this conference as well. She is a two-year delegate for Eighteenx 18
10 along with 39 other youth leaders across the U.S. in their bid to
11 register young people to vote. In the summers of 2019 and 2020 Taylor
12 Richardson registered over 200 youth to vote in Jacksonville. She has
13 co-sponsored in 2018, 2019 and 2020, with non-profit Alpha STARZ,
14 Back-to-School Jamborees where she helped raise funds for 3,000 local
15 children to receive backpacks and school supplies in Northwest
16 Jacksonville; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson raised via GoFundMe over \$4,000 to aid
18 in child care for frontline workers for COVID relief for the local
19 YMCA; she crowdfunded again for the StarBright Freedom Fund that
20 raised over \$17,000 to aid in social justice movements across the
21 nation; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Taylor Richardson also continues to use her platform
23 with corporations and has spoken at many STEM and women's empowerment
24 conferences around the world to push #RepresentationMatters in places
25 like Washington D.C. for the March for Science 2016, Ohio for
26 Congresswoman Marcia Fudge's NEOSTREAM Conference 2018, Ireland's
27 InspirefestHQ 2018, IBM Think in San Francisco in 2019, and Ellevate
28 Network in New York in 2019. She has graced the covers of two
29 Scholastic Science magazines in 2017 and 2018 and was 2017 Girl of
30 the Year in Aviation being the first African-American girl to do so;
31 and

1 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson is an alumna of the Boys & Girls Club
2 of Northeast Florida; of the 2019-20 class for Youth Leadership
3 Jacksonville; is a co-founding member/officer of The STEAM Squad, an
4 online organization that gets youth involved in science, technology,
5 engineering, the arts and math; a founding member of GoFundMe
6 Community; and a board member of two non-profits, Alpha Starz and
7 Girls Rights Org, where she serves as its Director of STEAM
8 Initiatives; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson has been in local, national and
10 international publications and media outlets, including Good Morning
11 Jacksonville and ABC's Good Morning America. She is the youngest 2020
12 Girls Inc. of Jacksonville Champion of Girls honoree; Jason Taylor
13 Foundation 2020/21 Youth Community Hall of Fame, Arts and 2020 One
14 to Watch for Jacksonville NAACP Image Award recipient; a 2020 *Folio*
15 *Jax* 18u18; co-creator of 2020 #verifiedsowhite challenging social
16 media outlets to have more verification of those of color; a three-
17 time recipient of The Bolles School Presidential Medal; 2019 advisory
18 council for Girls Who Code; 2018, 2019 and 2020 Clean and Clear
19 campaigns; 2018 BEST (Black Entrepreneur Sister Society) Teen of the
20 Year; 2018 Do Something Grab the Mic ambassador; 2017 Teen Vogue
21 21u21; 2017 GoFundMe Hero; 2018 The Roots 25 Young Futurist; and 2019
22 Ebony Power 100 Finalist; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson is featured in the documentary about her
24 advocacy work titled "Astronaut Starbright: Story of a STEM Advocate",
25 which has earned numerous awards and in 2019 she was featured in
26 another documentary, "Fly Like A Girl", about girls and women in
27 aviation and STEM fields; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson has also written op-ed pieces for Teen
29 Vogue, New Moon Girls and the *Florida Times-Union*. She is also
30 featured in several books that promote STEM, representation and girls'
31 empowerment; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in Ms. Richardson's most recent initiative in literacy
2 advocacy and social justice she raised \$22,000 and distributed the
3 book entitled *The Black Friend* to youth, organizations, libraries,
4 and schools in 30 different states and 40 U.S. embassies, including
5 all 21 Jacksonville Public Libraries and several local high schools.
6 The book is written from the perspective of a friend, Frederick
7 Joseph, who offers candid reflections on his own experiences with
8 racism and conversations with prominent artists and activists about
9 theirs - creating an essential read for white people who are committed
10 anti-racists and those newly come to the cause of racial justice; now
11 therefore

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

13 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends The
14 Bolles School's Taylor Richardson on her continuing outstanding
15 commitment to philanthropic efforts, literacy initiatives and
16 fostering greater understanding among all people. Her efforts are an
17 inspiration to Jacksonville's citizens, young and old, and the Council
18 extends its very best wishes to Ms. Richardson for continuing academic
19 and personal success.

20 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.

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24 Form Approved:

25
26 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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