

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-646-A**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPROVED BENEVOLENT
6 AND PROTECTIVE ORDER ELKS OF THE WORLD ON THE
7 OCCASION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S HOLDING ITS 123RD
8 ANNUAL ELKS GRAND LODGE AND 119TH GRAND TEMPLE
9 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN THE CITY OF
10 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Improved Benevolent Protective Order Elks of the
13 World ("IBPOEW") was founded in 1898 and has since grown to over
14 500,000 members in over 1,500 lodges worldwide; and

15 **WHEREAS**, at this size, the IBPOEW is the largest Black
16 fraternal organization in the world; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in addition to providing a place of belonging and
18 purpose to its members, IBPOEW provides a broad range of community
19 support programs, including annually awarding a \$10,000 scholarship
20 to the winner of its national Oratorical Contest; and

21 **WHEREAS**, On June 13, 1902, Emma Virginia Kelly organized the
22 Daughters of Elks in Norfolk, Virginia, the group was later adopted
23 by the Grand Lodge and became an auxiliary body to the Brothers of
24 Elks. The first Temple was Norfolk Temple No. 1, Norfolk, Virginia;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, by living out their principles of Charity, Justice, and
27 Fidelity, the Elks make a difference by touching the lives of people
28 of all sorts, from seniors to young people, and from the disadvantaged
29 to the disenfranchised; and

30 **WHEREAS**, James S. Genwright was the longest serving Ruler,
31 serving at the Jacksonville Maceo Elks Lodge; and

1 **WHEREAS,** the IBPOEW is set to hold its 123rd annual Elks Grand
2 Lodge and 119th Grand Temple International Convention in Jacksonville
3 during August 8-16, 2024; now therefore

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

5 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and welcomes
6 the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order Elks of the World for
7 its 123rd annual Elks Grand Lodge and 119th Grand Temple International
8 Convention. The City Council is honored and proud that the City is
9 hosting this outstanding gathering and extends its best wishes for a
10 highly successful convention. The City Council understands the
11 importance of the values of charity, justice, and fidelity and of
12 organizations that help to facilitate the creation of lasting
13 fraternal bonds between its members.

14 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
15 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
16 without the Mayor's signature.

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18 Form Approved:

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20 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

21 Office of General Counsel

22 Legislation Prepared By: Eamon Webb, City Council Research

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