

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Gay, Freeman, Salem, Miller, Amaro, White and Boylan:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-719-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEADERSHIP, AND
7 LEGACY OF RUSSELL HARPER, PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH
8 FLORIDA CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AND FORMER
9 BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
10 BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS; PROVIDING AN
11 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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13 **WHEREAS**, Russell Harper devoted his life to advocating for the
14 rights, dignity, and economic well-being of working families in
15 Jacksonville, unwavering in his mission to lift up organized labor
16 and all who share the struggle for fairness and justice; and

17 **WHEREAS**, through his leadership of the North Florida Central
18 Labor Council and in his role as Business Manager of the International
19 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Mr. Harper stood as a visionary,
20 uniting workers and community advocates in a rainbow of economic and
21 social justice pursuits, including fair wages, safe workplaces,
22 workforce training, and inclusive opportunity; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Harper's efforts echoed not only through union
24 halls but resonated in schools, neighborhood gatherings, and
25 legislative corridors where he championed education programs, job
26 equity initiatives, affordable housing, and the cherished promise of
27 economic mobility; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Harper's commitment extended beyond membership
29 rolls, he lifted the voices of those most overlooked: single parents,
30 underemployed youth, the unemployed, and all whose potential lay
31 dormant in the shadows of economic precarity; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in every meeting, march, and mentoring session, Mr.
2 Harper imbued hope with action, ideals with tasks well-done, bridged
3 struggles into strategies, and forged solidarity that embraced not
4 just workers, but everyone striving for a steadier tomorrow; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Russell Harper's leadership was defined by grace under
6 pressure, by listening deeply before speaking boldly, by building
7 coalitions that transcended sectors, by modeling the truth that
8 labor's strength is also its generosity; and

9 **WHEREAS**, we join his wife Sherry and his children and other
10 family members in mourning his passing and fondly remembering a life
11 of service well lived; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in deeply honoring the life and legacy of Russell
13 Harper, the North Florida Central Labor Council and other institutions
14 have prepared and preserved records, stories, testimonials, and
15 community tributes documenting his remarkable journey to illuminate
16 his story for generations to come; now therefore

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

18 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and
19 celebrates the life and legacy of Russell Harper, whose leadership,
20 compassion, and vision transformed not just labor policy and union
21 solidarity, but the very culture of how we care for one another in
22 Jacksonville. The City Council extends its profound gratitude to
23 Russell Harper for his extraordinary service and tireless advocacy,
24 an echoing legacy of justice, uplift, and enduring hope. The Council
25 respectfully encourages relevant institutions, including the North
26 Florida Central Labor Council, the International Brotherhood of
27 Electrical Workers, local archives, and community partners, to
28 compile, preserve, and share documentation, stories, oral histories,
29 and reflections of Russell Harper's life and work, to ensure that his
30 legacy continues to educate, inspire, and guide future leaders.

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/Mary E. Staffopoulos

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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