

1 Introduced by Council Members Morgan and Cumber:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-182**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING DOUGLAS  
6 ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS ON THE OCCASION OF  
7 ITS 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
8 DATE.  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, in 1922 the South Jacksonville School, later to become  
11 known as the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DASOTA), was opened  
12 as the first and only school on the south side of the St. Johns River  
13 serving African American students in grades 1-9; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Douglas Anderson, a Jacksonville native, attended local  
15 public schools and completed his education in the carpentry division  
16 of Tuskegee Institute before returning to Jacksonville to live and  
17 work as a farmer and carpenter. Mr. Anderson played an active role  
18 in spearheading the allocation of the present school site and  
19 construction of the original school buildings, served as PTA president  
20 for many years, and was, at the time, best known for his successful  
21 and untiring efforts in acquiring free transportation to school for  
22 Black students. The school was renamed in his honor in 1945; and

23 **WHEREAS**, between the years of 1955 and 1959, the grade 1-9 school  
24 expanded to become a high school, with the Fiery Dragon as its mascot,  
25 and the class of 1959 became the school's first graduating senior  
26 class. Douglas Anderson School closed in 1968 to become the San Diego  
27 Campus of Florida Junior College, then in 1971, it reopened as Douglas  
28 Anderson Seventh Grade Center; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts opened in August  
30 1985 as an arts school which brought faculty and students together  
31 with a common bond - a love for the arts. Students audition for

1 placement and the school is dedicated to training both the students  
2 who will pursue a career in the arts, as well as the students who  
3 will be committed to the support of art in the community; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the school's facilities and resources have been vastly  
5 improved over the years, and those improvements have resulted in a  
6 school that is ranked among the top high schools in the country in  
7 both the arts and in its academic programs. Douglas Anderson was  
8 named a Grammy Foundation Gold Signature School in 2010, 2012 and  
9 2016, is currently ranked in the top 70 best arts high schools and  
10 top 200 best magnet high schools in the country, and is traditionally  
11 ranked among the best high schools in Florida; now therefore

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

13 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends  
14 Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, its faculty, staff, students and  
15 alumni, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school's  
16 founding, and extends its best wishes for another century of  
17 outstanding achievement. DASOTA is one of the crown jewels of  
18 Jacksonville's educational system, and the school's fame has brought  
19 great credit to the Jacksonville community.

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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25 Form Approved:

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27           /s/ Paige H. Johnston          

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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