

1 Introduced by Council Member Peluso and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Pittman and Johnson:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-551-A**

6 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 158TH ANNIVERSARY
7 OF HISTORIC MOUNT OLIVE AFRICAN METHODIST
8 EPISCOPAL CHURCH; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Historic Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church
11 is among Jacksonville's oldest African American congregations,
12 tracing its origins to 1868 when Pastor Henry Floyd started a house
13 of prayer in his residence at Old Hardee's Mill Quarter along the St.
14 Johns River, and would become a cornerstone of the spiritual and
15 civic life of Jacksonville's Eastside; and

16 **WHEREAS**, for 158 years, Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church has faithfully
17 served generations of Jacksonville residents, providing worship,
18 fellowship, charity and guidance for the community, while helping
19 shape the religious and cultural heritage of the City; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the congregation's history is deeply intertwined with
21 the growth and development of Jacksonville's African American
22 community and reflects the perseverance, faith, and determination of
23 those who built institutions of hope and opportunity during periods
24 of social transformation; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church has been associated with
26 influential leaders in Jacksonville's history, including noted
27 attorney, legislator, and minister, Joseph Edward Lee, whose life
28 exemplified the Church's commitment to leadership and public service;
29 and

30 **WHEREAS**, the congregation also holds a significant place in the
31 legacy of A. Philip Randolph, whose family worshipped within the Mt.

Olive faith community and whose early experiences helped shape a life dedicated to justice, equality, and human dignity; and

WHEREAS, among those connected to the church's rich history is Abraham Lincoln Lewis, the pioneering businessman, philanthropist, and founder of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company, who had been an active member and strong financial supporter of the church, and whose leadership and vision helped shape Jacksonville's African American business and civic communities; and

WHEREAS, the historic sanctuary at 841 Franklin Street stands as an exemplary architectural landmark designed by Richard Lewis Brown, widely recognized as Jacksonville's first known Black architect and a distinguished civic leader, who also served in the Florida House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, construction of the present historic structure began in the early 1920s, yielding one of Jacksonville's most significant examples of African American architectural achievement, contributing to the historic character and cultural identity of the Eastside community; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of its architectural and historical significance, the Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church building was designated a local historic landmark by the Jacksonville City Council in 2023, preserving a vital chapter of Jacksonville's history for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the 158th Anniversary of Historic Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church provides an opportunity for the City of Jacksonville to celebrate the congregation's enduring legacy of faith, service, leadership, and community empowerment, and to honor the generations of church leaders, congregants, and supporters whose dedication has sustained this historic institution for over a century; now, therefore

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

Section 1. The City Council hereby commemorates the 158th

1 Anniversary of Historic Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal
2 Church, recognizing its extraordinary contributions to the spiritual,
3 cultural, and civic life of Jacksonville since the church's founding
4 in 1868.

5 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
6 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
7 without the Mayor's signature.

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9 Form Approved:

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11 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

12 Office of General Counsel

13 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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