

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Peluso, Gay, and Pittman and
2 Co-Sponsored by Council Member Amaro:
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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-199-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
7 INTERNATIONAL STAR OF STAGE, SCREEN AND FASHION
8 PADRICA MENDEZ, RECOGNIZING HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO
9 THE ARTS, EDUCATION, AND THE PRESERVATION OF
10 JACKSONVILLE'S HISTORY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
11 DATE.
12

13 **WHEREAS,** Padrica Mendez, a Jacksonville native, was born in
14 the LaVilla area of downtown Jacksonville to Rev. Jamie Crumley Mendez
15 and Pedro Mendez, Sr. an emigrant from Santiago, Cuba who operated
16 P. Mendez Cuban Tailors in the historic Masonic Temple building; and

17 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Mendez earned degrees from Bethune-Cookman
18 University and Columbia University and used her knowledge and passion
19 for music to teach in the Duval County public school system before
20 embarking on her international career; and

21 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Mendez became an internationally acclaimed opera
22 singer, actor, and fashion designer, who was a recipient of a
23 Fulbright Scholarship, studying under some of the world's most
24 renowned musical minds including Mariano Stabile at the Accademia di
25 Santa Cecilia in Rome and the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena;
26 and she brought to life the powerful roles of Violetta in Verdi's *La*
27 *Traviata*, Cio-Cio San in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, and electrified
28 audiences across Europe in *Carmen Jones*, touring with the legendary
29 Alvin Ailey; and

30 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Mendez was also celebrated in European cinema,
31 appearing in *7 Donne D'oro Contro Due 07* (Seven Golden Women et. al.,

1 1966), *Missione Apocalisse* (1966), and *Il Sergente Rompiglioni*
2 (1975); and on the popular Italian television show *La Fiera dei Sogni*
3 with Josephine Baker, and performed in Dream Fair, dazzling
4 international audiences with her unmatched artistry; and

5 **WHEREAS**, even with her global success, Ms. Mendez remained
6 deeply connected to her hometown of Jacksonville, where she dedicated
7 herself to uplifting the community and preserving its rich cultural
8 heritage; returning to Jacksonville at the height of her fame to care
9 for her ailing mother; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Mendez was a lifelong member of Bethel Baptist
11 Institutional Church and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
12 Inc., having been personally recruited to Bethune-Cookman University
13 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, who also sponsored her membership in the
14 sorority; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Mendez was a fierce advocate for preserving
16 Jacksonville's historic LaVilla neighborhood and worked tirelessly
17 to ensure housing stability for longtime residents, leaving a lasting
18 impact on Downtown Jacksonville; and

19 **WHEREAS**, until her recent passing Ms. Mendez lived in her
20 childhood home, the Shad House, on West Monroe Street, one of the
21 last residential structures still standing in LaVilla, which holds
22 historic designation; and

23 **WHEREAS**, on February 27, 2025, Padrica Mendez passed away,
24 leaving behind an extraordinary legacy of artistry, advocacy, and
25 community service that continues to uplift and inspire generations;
26 now therefore

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

28 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors the life and
29 legacy of Padrica Mendez, recognizing her remarkable contributions
30 to the arts, education, and historic preservation, and extends its
31 deepest condolences to her brother Pedro, Sister-in-Law Gloria, and

1 her entire family, friends, and all those who were inspired by her
2 work.

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

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7 Form Approved:

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9 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

10 Office of General Counsel

11 Legislation Prepared By: Nayeli Jimenez, City Council Research

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