

1 Introduced by Council Members Gaffney and Newby and Co-Sponsored by
2 Council Members Pittman, Morgan & Becton:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2022-101-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
7 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FORMER SCHOOL BOARD
8 MEMBER AND CIVIC LEADER JIMMIE ALPHONSO "TAB"
9 JOHNSON; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Jimmie Alphonso Johnson, a Jacksonville native,
12 graduated from Stanton Senior High School in 1952 and earned his
13 bachelor's and master's degrees in education and leadership at Florida
14 A&M University where he played on the football team and was
15 commissioned in the U.S. Army Reserves after his ROTC service; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Johnson worked briefly for the U.S. Postal Service
17 before beginning a long career as an educator in Northwest
18 Jacksonville, first as a teacher at Moncrief Elementary School and
19 then as a teacher, assistant and head football coach, athletic
20 director, assistant principal and principal over the course of 37
21 years at Northwestern Junior-Senior High School, Jean Ribault High
22 School, Stanton Vocational High School, New Stanton High School, and
23 William Raines High School, where he served as Principal for 16 years,
24 the school's longest-serving principal; and

25 **WHEREAS**, following his retirement from coaching and school
26 leadership, Coach Johnson continued his public service by winning a
27 seat on the Duval County School Board and being re-elected to a second
28 term, and serving as the Chair of the School Board in 2001; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in addition to his service in the school system, Jimmie
30 Johnson was a Director of the Florida High School Athletic
31 Association, President of the Gateway Athletic Conference, served on

1 the boards of directors of Communities in Schools and Learn to Read,
2 served his lifetime church, St. Paul A.M.E., as a board trustee and
3 Sunday School Superintendent, and was one of the original founders
4 of the Bob Hayes Track Meet, the largest track and field meet for
5 high school students in the United States; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Coach Johnson often said that his life was shaped by
7 the influence of his own coaches, including the late Chappie James,
8 Edwin Lawson, James Smalls, Theodore Montgomery, Jake Gaither and
9 Pete Griffin and role models, William Weathersbee, Dr. Alvin White
10 and Earl Kitchings. The lessons he learned from these giants
11 translated into guiding principles in his life and later with his own
12 students. It was his love for football and mentoring young men that
13 propelled his career into life as an educator who positively
14 influenced the lives of tens of thousands of students over a long and
15 distinguished career in the Duval public schools; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the City Council was saddened to learn of the recent
17 passing of this outstanding leader and community servant, who was
18 preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Thelma Whitted Johnson;
19 now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
22 the life and countless achievements of Jimmie Alphonso "Tab" Johnson
23 and extends to his family, friends, and countless admirers the City's
24 sincere condolences upon his passing. Coach Johnson was an
25 extraordinary leader and mentor and his service to our community in
26 many capacities will be long and gratefully remembered.

27 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
29 without the Mayor's signature.
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1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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