

1 Introduced by Council Members Pittman, Newby and Priestly Jackson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021 - 297**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE
6 LIFE OF WILLIAM JACOB EASTON; PROVIDING AN
7 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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9 **WHEREAS**, William Jacob Easton, a native of Jacksonville,
10 Florida, was born on April 10, 1999. The only child of his beloved
11 parents James H. Easton, Jr., and Vonchrusa Easton, William,
12 affectionately called "Will", was a young man of strength,
13 integrity, and positivity. He touched and enriched the lives of
14 every person he met because he knew no strangers; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Will attended local public schools and was an elite
16 Trojan student-athlete and graduate of the Jean Ribault Senior High
17 School. He loved sports and found his niche in basketball. He
18 dominated the courts with his energy and skill. The opposing team
19 often underestimated Will's tenacity and heart because of his size,
20 but they would quickly find out that Will was a beast. He was known
21 for his sportsmanship, competitiveness, and defense tactics. His
22 small stature was never a limitation on the court because he would
23 guard the opponent's top scorer and effortlessly rise to the
24 occasion and dunk on players. Will was highlighted on ESPN.com in
25 2016 for pulling off speculator dunks while standing at 5-foot-2.
26 William was also talented in track and field and was awarded a
27 scholarship to attend Morris College in Sumter, SC. After a couple
28 of years, Will accepted a scholarship to attend Wilberforce
29 University in Wilberforce, OH, which allowed him to live his dream
30 to play collegiate basketball finally; and

31 **WHEREAS**, as a senior student-athlete at Wilberforce

1 University, William Jacob Easton maintained a 3.5-grade point
2 average, earned the Academic All-Conference honors for the 2019-
3 2020 season, and scheduled to receive his degree in Sports Medicine
4 in May. His leadership and achievements afforded him the honor of
5 being initiated into the Delta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi
6 Fraternity, Inc., in Spring 2020. Will had the same passion off-
7 court for service and giving back to the community. He volunteered
8 countless hours with Clara White Mission and Duval Teacher's
9 United. Will was admired, loved, and respected by all. His
10 personality, work ethic, and genuineness are the essence of how
11 Will was raised, how Will treated others, and how Will lived.
12 Remembrance in life's passing is the most accurate form of love one
13 can give, for a memory never dies and love lives forever in the
14 heart of another; now therefore

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

16 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
17 commemorates the gift of love and joy that William Jacob Easton
18 freely extended to everyone within his reach and extends to his
19 beloved parents, family, and many friends its most profound
20 condolences. He was an amazing man, and although his physical
21 presence will be keenly missed, William Jacob Easton will forever
22 be present in the hearts and minds of everyone that knew him.

23 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
24 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
25 without the Mayor's signature.

26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Yvonne P. Mitchell, City Council Research

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