

1 Introduced by Council Member Carrico:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-190**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING BOLLES
6 SCHOOL JUNIOR TAYLOR RICHARDSON FOR HER
7 OUTSTANDING AND UNPRECEDENTED WORK AS A
8 TEENAGE PHILANTHROPIST AND ADVOCATE FOR "STEM"
9 EDUCATION, LITERACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE;
10 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Taylor Richardson is a high school student at The
13 Bolles School in Jacksonville who is also known as "Astronaut
14 Starbright." She is an advocate, activist, philanthropist and
15 speaker. She wants to be a physician and an astronaut; and

16 **WHEREAS**, since appearing before the Jacksonville City Council
17 to receive a commendatory resolution as a 12-year-old aspiring
18 astronaut and champion for literacy, Taylor Richardson has been a
19 pacesetter for youth philanthropy and STEM (science, technology,
20 engineering and mathematics) advocacy for the past 7 years. She has
21 launched 18 GoFundMe campaigns raising more than \$250,000 in areas
22 including STEM education and awareness for young female minorities,
23 assisting families of health care workers with childcare during the
24 COVID-19 pandemic, and increasing awareness for literacy; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson's service and advocacy work continues
26 to have an incredible trajectory that began when she was nine and
27 attended her first Space Camp in Alabama. Her first fundraiser led
28 to her own book drive - Taylor's Take Flight With A Book - that has
29 collected and donated over 10,000 books within and outside of the
30 U.S. Since then Ms. Richardson has sponsored several full
31 scholarships to send girls to STEM and empowerment camps across the

1 U.S.; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson is also an internationally known
3 advocate for girls in STEM. She is the youngest recipient of the
4 *Florida Times-Union* EVE Award's first-time "Aspiring EVE" winner in
5 June 2019. She is a 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 mentee with the
6 nationally recognized Black Girls Rock, Black Girls LEAD
7 conference. In July 2019 she helped fund fees for other Black girls
8 to attend this conference as well. She is a two-year delegate for
9 Eighteenx 18 along with 39 other youth leaders across the U.S. in
10 their bid to register young people to vote. In the summers of 2019
11 and 2020 Taylor Richardson registered over 200 youth to vote in
12 Jacksonville. She has co-sponsored in 2018, 2019 and 2020, with
13 non-profit Alpha STARZ, Back-to-School Jamborees where she helped
14 raise funds for 3,000 local children to receive backpacks and
15 school supplies in Northwest Jacksonville; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson raised via GoFundMe over \$4,000 to aid
17 in child care for frontline workers for COVID relief for the local
18 YMCA; she crowdfunded again for the StarBright Freedom Fund that
19 raised over \$17,000 to aid in social justice movements across the
20 nation; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Taylor Richardson also continues to use her platform
22 with corporations and has spoken at many STEM and women's
23 empowerment conferences around the world to push
24 #RepresentationMatters in places like Washington D.C. for the March
25 for Science 2016, Ohio for Congresswoman Marcia Fudge's NEOSTREAM
26 Conference 2018, Ireland's InspirefestHQ 2018, IBM Think in San
27 Francisco in 2019, and Ellevate Network in New York in 2019. She
28 has graced the covers of two Scholastic Science magazines in 2017
29 and 2018 and was 2017 Girl of the Year in Aviation being the first
30 African-American girl to do so; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Richardson is an alumna of the Boys & Girls Club

1 of Northeast Florida; of the 2019-20 class for Youth Leadership
2 Jacksonville; is a co-founding member/officer of The STEAM Squad,
3 an online organization that gets youth involved in science,
4 technology, engineering, the arts and math; a founding member of
5 GoFundMe Community; and a board member of two non-profits, Alpha
6 Starz and Girls Rights Org, where she serves as its Director of
7 STEAM Initiatives; and

8 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Richardson has been in local, national and
9 international publications and media outlets, including Good
10 Morning Jacksonville and ABC's Good Morning America. She is the
11 youngest 2020 Girls Inc. of Jacksonville Champion of Girls honoree;
12 Jason Taylor Foundation 2020/21 Youth Community Hall of Fame, Arts
13 and 2020 One to Watch for Jacksonville NAACP Image Award recipient;
14 a 2020 *Folio Jax* 18u18; co-creator of 2020 #verfiedsowhite
15 challenging social media outlets to have more verification of those
16 of color; a three-time recipient of The Bolles School Presidential
17 Medal; 2019 advisory council for Girls Who Code; 2018, 2019 and
18 2020 Clean and Clear campaigns; 2018 BEST (Black Entrepreneur
19 SisTer Society) Teen of the Year; 2018 Do Something Grab the Mic
20 ambassador; 2017 Teen Vogue 21u21; 2017 GoFundMe Hero; 2018 The
21 Roots 25 Young Futurist; and 2019 Ebony Power 100 Finalist; and

22 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Richardson is featured in the documentary about
23 her advocacy work titled "Astronaut Starbright: Story of a STEM
24 Advocate", which has earned numerous awards and in 2019 she was
25 featured in another documentary, "Fly Like A Girl", about girls and
26 women in aviation and STEM fields; and

27 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Richardson has also written op-ed pieces for Teen
28 Vogue, New Moon Girls and the *Florida Times-Union*. She is also
29 featured in several books that promote STEM, representation and
30 girls' empowerment; and

31 **WHEREAS,** in Ms. Richardson's most recent initiative in

1 literacy advocacy and social justice she raised \$22,000 and
2 distributed the book entitled *The Black Friend* to youth,
3 organizations, libraries, and schools in 30 different states and 40
4 U.S. embassies, including all 21 Jacksonville Public Libraries and
5 several local high schools. The book is written from the
6 perspective of a friend, Frederick Joseph, who offers candid
7 reflections on his own experiences with racism and conversations
8 with prominent artists and activists about theirs - creating an
9 essential read for white people who are committed anti-racists and
10 those newly come to the cause of racial justice; now therefore

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

12 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
13 The Bolles School's Taylor Richardson on her continuing outstanding
14 commitment to philanthropic efforts, literacy initiatives and
15 fostering greater understanding among all people. Her efforts are
16 an inspiration to Jacksonville's citizens, young and old, and the
17 Council extends its very best wishes to Ms. Richardson for
18 continuing academic and personal success.

19 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
20 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
21 without the Mayor's signature.

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23 Form Approved:

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25 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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