

1 Introduced by Council Member Priestly Jackson and Co-Sponsored by  
2 Council Members Morgan, Pittman and Becton:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2020-195**

6 A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AND HONORING THE MANY  
7 YEARS OF SERVICE OF JUDGE PAULINE M. DRAKE  
8 UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE FOURTH JUDICIAL  
9 CIRCUIT COUNTY COURT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
10 DATE.

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake was appointed to the county  
13 bench in 1998 by the late Governor Lawton Chiles to fill the  
14 unexpired term of Judge June Blackburn. Judge Drake was a county  
15 court judge who heard matters involving civil, criminal, small  
16 claims and traffic court cases involving injuries; and

17 **WHEREAS**, this appointment was historical for this area because  
18 in doing so Judge Drake became the first African American female  
19 judge appointed to the bench in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which  
20 encompasses Duval, Clay and Nassau County; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Judge Drake received her Bachelor of Science Degree  
22 in Secondary Education from Tuskegee University in 1974, a Master's  
23 Degree in Special Education from the University of Alabama in 1978  
24 and a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Florida in  
25 1984; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake was admitted to the Florida Bar  
27 in 1986. Her previous experience includes Assistant State  
28 Attorney, Regional Legal Advisor for the Florida Department of Law  
29 Enforcement and private practice. She was also a certified  
30 Federal, Circuit, Family and County Court Mediator; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake has always been involved with

1 the County Court Conference of Judges. She currently serves as  
2 Vice-Chair of the Education Committee, the Professionalism  
3 Committee and has actively been involved with professionalism in  
4 the Florida Bar and Jacksonville Bar Association. Judge Drake  
5 actively participates in Justice Teaching in the public school  
6 system and volunteers with various civil organizations; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake has dedicated herself to local  
8 organizations that focus on making a difference in the community.  
9 Judge Drake currently volunteers as a Board Member for the  
10 Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition and the James Coon Black  
11 History Brain Brawl. Judge Drake has previously volunteered with  
12 the Peer Mediation Volunteer at Fort Caroline Elementary School,  
13 National Council of Negro Women, Inc., the Azalea Project, Girl  
14 Scouts of America, Kid's College at Edward Water's College in  
15 Jacksonville and she is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta, a  
16 public service sorority. Judge Drake is also a member of The Bethel  
17 Church, formerly known as Bethel Baptist Institutional Church; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake has dedicated her life to  
19 public service and the value of education. The inspiration she had  
20 from her teachers led Judge Drake back to the classroom on a  
21 regular basis to visit elementary schools in underserved  
22 neighborhoods. Judge Drake has been a mentor to young lawyers and  
23 has had an extraordinary impact on Duval County and has dedicated  
24 her time to create a stronger community; now therefore

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

26 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville celebrates and honors  
27 Judge Pauline M. Drake for her trailblazing work as the first  
28 African American female judge in the Fourth Judicial Circuit and  
29 for her many years of service as a Duval County Court judge and  
30 wishes her all the best in her retirement.

31 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
2 without the Mayor's signature.

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4 Form Approved:

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6 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Richard Distel, City Council Research

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