

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Peluso, Salem, and Gaffney,
2 Jr. and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Pittman and Miller:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-163-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE
7 LIFE, LEGACY, AND ENDURING IMPACT OF THE
8 REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON, SR., RECOGNIZING HIS
9 TRANSFORMATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVIL RIGHTS,
10 ECONOMIC JUSTICE, AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION,
11 ACKNOWLEDGING HIS ENDURING TIES TO THE CITY OF
12 JACKSONVILLE AND EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE AND
13 RESPECT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
14 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
15 DATE.

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17 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville City Council recognizes that the moral arc
18 of a city is shaped by leaders whose courage expands opportunity and
19 whose voice strengthens democracy; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., devoted more than six
21 decades to advancing civil rights, economic empowerment, peace and
22 full democratic participation in the United States and around the
23 world; and

24 **WHEREAS**, born in Greenville, South Carolina, during the era of
25 segregation, Reverend Jackson rose through faith, scholarship, and
26 conviction, to become one of the most influential advocates for
27 justice in modern American history; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson pursued higher education at North
29 Carolina A & T State University, and continued his theological studies
30 at Chicago Theological Seminary, grounding his public leadership in
31 spiritual depth and intellectual rigor; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson emerged as a national leader during
2 the Civil Rights Movement as a close associate and protégé of the
3 late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., working through the
4 Southern Christian Leadership Conference to advance economic
5 opportunity, human dignity, and institutional reform; and

6 **WHEREAS**, following Dr. King's assassination, Reverend Jackson
7 founded Operation PUSH and later the Rainbow PUSH Coalition,
8 mobilizing voter registration, expanding educational access,
9 strengthening corporate accountability, and building multiracial
10 coalitions that reshaped American political participation; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 1984 and 1988, Reverend Jackson mounted historic
12 campaigns for the Democratic nomination for President of the United
13 States, earning millions of votes and fundamentally broadening access
14 to the democratic process for historically underrepresented
15 communities; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 2000, Reverend Jackson was awarded the Presidential
17 Medal of Freedom in recognition of his lifetime of service and
18 national impact; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson maintained deep and enduring ties to
20 Jacksonville, Florida, standing in fellowship with the late Reverend
21 Tom Diamond of Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church and Reverend Lee
22 Harris of Mount Olive Primitive Baptist Church, joining former
23 Congresswoman Corrine Brown and former President Bill Clinton in
24 civic engagement within this city, and returning in 2013 to meet with
25 Marissa Alexander to elevate her case and underscore his unwavering
26 commitment to justice, thereby affirming his belief in the ongoing
27 work of faith, advocacy, and change across Northeast Florida; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson's life bridged the Jim Crow era, the
29 Civil Rights Movement, and the continuing struggle for equal justice
30 under the law, leaving an enduring imprint on American democracy and
31 the civic fabric of Jacksonville; now therefore

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

2 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors the life and
3 transformative legacy of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., recognizing
4 his profound contributions to civil rights, economic justice,
5 democratic participation, and his lasting connection to the people
6 and faith communities in Jacksonville, Florida.

7 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
8 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
9 without the Mayor's signature.

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11 Form Approved:

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13 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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