

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Amaro:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2025-360**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND
6 UNWAVERING SPIRIT OF ESTELLE TERESA LEE WILLIAMS
7 MCKISSICK, BELOVED FIRST LADY OF THE BETHEL
8 EXPERIENCE CHURCH, DEDICATED EDUCATOR,
9 DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
10 SORORITY, INC., AND MATRIARCH OF A PROFOUNDLY
11 IMPACTFUL ECUMENICAL FAMILY; OFFERING
12 CONDOLENCES TO HER HUSBAND, FAMILY, CHURCH, AND
13 COMMUNITY; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
14 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
15

16 **WHEREAS,** the City Council of Jacksonville, Florida pauses with
17 reverence and deep admiration to recognize the extraordinary life and
18 enduring legacy of Estelle Teresa Lee Williams McKissick, who
19 transitioned from labor to reward, having lived a life marked by
20 elegant service, intellectual vigor, and spiritual grace; and

21 **WHEREAS,** Estelle McKissick, the faithful and cherished wife of
22 57 years to the Right Reverend Rudolph Waldo McKissick, Sr., Senior
23 Pastor Emeritus of The Bethel Church, for decades stood as the
24 luminous and beloved First Lady of the Bethel Experience, offering
25 strength, poise, and prayerful presence to a ministry that has long
26 served as a cornerstone of spiritual leadership in Jacksonville, the
27 State of Florida, and beyond; and

28 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. McKissick dedicated 41 remarkable years to
29 education as a retired schoolteacher, assistant principal and
30 principal, mentoring, molding, and empowering generations of students
31 and educators, with her influence echoing in classrooms and

1 communities throughout Northeast Florida; and

2 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. McKissick's profound commitment to sisterhood,
3 scholarship, and service was reflected in her distinguished
4 membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the first
5 historically Black Greek-lettered sorority, through which she
6 inspired others with civic leadership and a deep love for her
7 community; and

8 **WHEREAS,** First Lady McKissick was not merely a titleholder but
9 a towering example of what it means to walk in divine purpose, an
10 educator, spiritual guide, community advocate, and elegant matriarch
11 whose legacy lives on in her son, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Jr.
12 (Kimberly), and her beloved grandchildren, Jocelyn, Janai, and
13 Joshua, affectionately known as "The Trinity," whose lives are
14 illuminated by her love; and

15 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. McKissick's life was a testament to faith in
16 action, to Black womanhood wrapped in grace and courage, to civic
17 stewardship performed in heels and humility, and to a love for God's
18 people expressed in every prayer, every lesson, and every quiet deed
19 done in excellence; and

20 **WHEREAS,** the City of Jacksonville joins in mourning with The
21 Bethel Church, with her devoted husband Bishop Rudolph McKissick,
22 Sr., her family, her Sorors, and the countless lives touched by her
23 enduring light; now therefore

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

25 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and memorializes
26 the life, legacy and unwavering spirit of First Lady Estelle Teresa
27 Lee Williams McKissick, offering its deepest condolences to her loving
28 husband Bishop Rudolph Waldo McKissick, Sr., her son Bishop Rudolph
29 W. McKissick, Jr., and family, and to The Bethel Church community.

30 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
31 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon

1 introduction of this Resolution is requested in order to convey
2 condolences to the McKissick family in a timely manner for the funeral
3 which is scheduled for May 17, 2025.

4 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
5 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
6 without the Mayor's signature.

7 Form Approved:

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9 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

10 Office of General Counsel

11 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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