

1 Introduced by Council Members Gaffney, Jr., Salem, Pittman,
2 Clark-Murray, Morgan and Carlucci:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2023-446**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
7 BENJAMIN "BEN" FRAZIER; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
8 DATE.

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10 **WHEREAS,** Benjamin "Ben" Frazier was a Jacksonville native, the
11 son of a minister and a civil rights advocate. He was a proud alumnus
12 of Raines High School, loving father to Kelly and Benji, an avid
13 fisherman, and his heart was deeply connected to our city; and

14 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Ben Frazier got his start in radio and went on to
15 become the first African American news anchor at WJXT-TV. In 2020,
16 he received the Ken Knight Award that recognizes Jacksonville's
17 African American Media trailblazers; and

18 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Ben Frazier was a community activist who founded
19 the Northside Coalition in 2016 to focus on improving social, racial,
20 and economic injustices. He worked to make our city safer as a member
21 of the Jacksonville Journey and by serving on the City's Task Force
22 on Safety and Crime Reduction; and

23 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Ben Frazier was an award-winning civil and human
24 rights leader who was honored with numerous awards over the years,
25 including the NAACP's Rutledge H. Pearson Civil Rights Award for his
26 advocacy and outstanding contributions to civil rights. He was proud
27 to have been invited to address the United Nations Committee on the
28 Elimination of Racial Discrimination last year in Geneva; and

29 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Ben Frazier fought for citizen equality,
30 neighborhood equity, and accountability and compassion in our
31 government. He was a champion for improved police practices and

1 policies, who was also candid about how he occasionally stumbled on
2 his journey through life. He believed everyone is entitled to a second
3 chance and he bravely shared his story to help others and his city;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS,** while he was known for the cadence of his voice that
6 could fill a room, Mr. Ben Frazier was an inspiration through the
7 words he chose to speak. He was a tireless voice for the voiceless,
8 and an ardent supporter of voting rights, non-violent protest and
9 speaking truth to power; now therefore

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

11 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life
12 and legacy of Mr. Ben Frazier for his contributions to civil rights,
13 his unwavering commitment to social justice, and his dedication to
14 making our city a better place. The City Council mourns the passing
15 of Mr. Ben Frazier and extends condolences to his family and to all
16 who knew and loved him.

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

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21 Form Approved:

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23 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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