

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney and Co-sponsored by Council
2 President Newby and Council Members Priestly Jackson, Morgan, and
3 Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Newby, Priestly Jackson,
4 Morgan, Pittman, Freeman, Pittman, Bowman, Becton, Diamond, DeFoor,
5 Cumber, Howland & White:

6
7
8 **RESOLUTION 2022-184-A**

9 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFETIME OF
10 ACHIEVEMENTS AND MOURNING THE PASSING OF COACH
11 JAMES DAY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12
13 **WHEREAS**, James Day began his career in athletics as an intern
14 under Earl Kitchings, and became the track coach at Raines High School
15 in 1966, just after the opening of the Northwest Jacksonville school,
16 where he remained in charge of the boys track and field program until
17 1997; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Coach James Day led the Vikings to state runner-up
19 finishes in 1973 and 1974, and to state championships in 1976 and
20 1989. Under his leadership, Raines athletes won 19 individual Florida
21 High School Athletic Association boys titles and a dozen state relays.
22 Coach Day was inducted into the National High School Coaches
23 Association Hall of Fame in Rochester, Minnesota in 2015; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Coach Day was one of the founders of the prestigious
25 Bob Hayes Invitational Track Meet, one of the nation's premier high
26 school track and field events. The famed annual track event draws
27 competitors from across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean;
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, Coach Day retired from coaching and teaching in 1997,
30 dedicating himself full-time to work on the Bob Hayes Invitational
31 Track and Field Meet and at Edward Waters College, where he was the

1 Tigers' athletic director before retiring in 2003; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Coach Day earned the honor of numerous awards over the
3 years, including selection as one of the first-ever finalists in the
4 Pinnacle Award category of the Jacksonville Image Awards, created by
5 News4JAX, CW17 and Graham Media Group to honor achievements in local
6 Black communities, extensive professional accomplishments, and those
7 who are role models for others. Coach Day was named the National High
8 School Athletic Coaches Association United States boys track coach
9 of the year in 1989, and the Jacksonville Sports and Entertainment
10 Board recognized his achievements in April 1999 with its lifetime
11 achievement award; and

12 **WHEREAS**, James Day was a loving husband to Yvonne, and an admired
13 friend and mentor to so many others. Coach Day was revered by those
14 around him, known as a good man who helped so many to become better
15 young men, an unwavering encourager to people and a voice of
16 leadership. Coach Day's life stands out as an example of inspiration,
17 showing how one person can make a huge difference in the lives of so
18 many people; now therefore

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

20 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the
21 lifetime of achievements of track and field icon Coach James Day and
22 extends condolences upon his passing to his family, friends and loved
23 ones. Jacksonville City Council greatly appreciates all he did to
24 impact the lives of student athletes and for all he did to make the
25 city of Jacksonville a better place.

26 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
27 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
28 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

2

3 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

6 GC-#1490298-v1-2022-184-A.docx