

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Amaro, Arias, Boylan, J. Carlucci, Carlucci, Carrico, Clark-
3 Murray, Diamond, Freeman, Gaffney Jr., Gay, Howland, Lahnen, Miller,
4 Peluso, Pittman, Salem and White and amended on the Floor of Council:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2023-743-A**

8 A RESOLUTION WELCOMING THE RETURN OF BETHUNE-
9 COOKMAN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TO JACKSONVILLE TO
10 FACE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT EVERBANK STADIUM;
11 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
12 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
13

14 **WHEREAS**, for several decades from the 1980s through the
15 mid-2000s the Bethune-Cookman University ("BCU") football team hosted
16 annual games in Jacksonville known as the Gateway Classic, with the
17 Wildcats facing a variety of Historically Black Colleges and
18 Universities (HBCUs) from around the nation; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in 2022 the BCU Wildcats returned to Jacksonville
20 after an absence of more than a decade to face Head Coach Deion
21 Sanders' Jackson State Tigers; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Wildcats return to EverBank Stadium again on
23 October 21, 2023, to face the Southern University Jaguars from Baton
24 Rouge, Louisiana, which will mark the first time the two teams have
25 faced off on the gridiron since their last meeting in Jacksonville
26 in 2006; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville is pleased and proud to again
28 host Bethune-Cookman University and Southern University football and
29 the fans of both teams to our city for an exciting afternoon of
30 football and pageantry that only HBCUs can provide, including an
31 extended halftime show featuring the Bethune-Cookman Marching

1 Wildcats and the Southern University Human Jukebox Marching Band; now
2 therefore

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

4 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby welcomes the return of
5 the Bethune-Cookman University Wildcats to Jacksonville to face the
6 Southern University Jaguars, and extends best wishes to the teams,
7 the bands, the universities and their many fans for an exciting and
8 fun-filled day in our city.

9 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
10 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 (Emergency).** Emergency passage upon
11 introduction of this Resolution is requested in order to extend
12 welcome to the participants and visitors to the game, which will be
13 held before the next City Council passage opportunity.

14 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
15 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
16 without the Mayor's signature.

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18 Form Approved:

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20 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

21 Office of General Counsel

22 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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