

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Peluso, Salem, and Gaffney  
2 Jr.:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-163**

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.

16  
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/ Shannon MacGillis

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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