

Introduced by Council Member Johnson:

**RESOLUTION 2025-719**

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEADERSHIP, AND  
LEGACY OF RUSSELL HARPER, PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH  
FLORIDA CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AND FORMER  
BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS; PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, Russell Harper devoted his life to advocating for the  
rights, dignity, and economic well-being of working families in  
Jacksonville, unwavering in his mission to lift up organized labor  
and all who share the struggle for fairness and justice; and

**WHEREAS**, through his leadership of the North Florida Central  
Labor Council and in his role as Business Manager of the International  
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Mr. Harper stood as a visionary,  
uniting workers and community advocates in a rainbow of economic and  
social justice pursuits, including fair wages, safe workplaces,  
workforce training, and inclusive opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Harper's efforts echoed not only through union  
halls but resonated in schools, neighborhood gatherings, and  
legislative corridors where he championed education programs, job  
equity initiatives, affordable housing, and the cherished promise of  
economic mobility; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Harper's commitment extended beyond membership  
rolls, he lifted the voices of those most overlooked: single parents,  
underemployed youth, the unemployed, and all whose potential lay  
dormant in the shadows of economic precarity; and

**WHEREAS**, in every meeting, march, and mentoring session, Mr.

1 Harper imbued hope with action, ideals with tasks well-done, bridged  
2 struggles into strategies, and forged solidarity that embraced not  
3 just workers, but everyone striving for a steadier tomorrow; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Russell Harper's leadership was defined by grace under  
5 pressure, by listening deeply before speaking boldly, by building  
6 coalitions that transcended sectors, by modeling the truth that  
7 labor's strength is also its generosity; and

8 **WHEREAS**, we join his wife Sherry and his children and other  
9 family members in mourning his passing and fondly remembering a life  
10 of service well lived; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in deeply honoring the life and legacy of Russell  
12 Harper, the North Florida Central Labor Council and other institutions  
13 have prepared and preserved records, stories, testimonials, and  
14 community tributes documenting his remarkable journey to illuminate  
15 his story for generations to come; now therefore

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

17 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and  
18 celebrates the life and legacy of Russell Harper, whose leadership,  
19 compassion, and vision transformed not just labor policy and union  
20 solidarity, but the very culture of how we care for one another in  
21 Jacksonville. The City Council extends its profound gratitude to  
22 Russell Harper for his extraordinary service and tireless advocacy,  
23 an echoing legacy of justice, uplift, and enduring hope. The Council  
24 respectfully encourages relevant institutions, including the North  
25 Florida Central Labor Council, the International Brotherhood of  
26 Electrical Workers, local archives, and community partners, to  
27 compile, preserve, and share documentation, stories, oral histories,  
28 and reflections of Russell Harper's life and work, to ensure that his  
29 legacy continues to educate, inspire, and guide future leaders.

30 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
31 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective

1 without the Mayor's signature.

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3 Form Approved:

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5           /s/ Shannon MacGillis          

6 Office of General Counsel

7 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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