

1 Introduced by Council Members Amaro, Johnson, Salem, M. Carlucci,  
2 Boylan, Peluso, Miller, and Howland:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-195**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND  
7 HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE HENRY LEE ADAMS,  
8 JR.; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr., was born April 8, 1945, in  
11 Jacksonville's Historic Eastside – one of the City's most culturally  
12 significant African American communities – during the era of  
13 segregation, where his parents instilled in him the values of faith,  
14 discipline, education, and perseverance; and

15 **WHEREAS**, upon graduation from Matthew Gilbert High School, Judge  
16 Adams received his bachelor's degree in political science from Florida  
17 A&M University and his law degree from Howard University School of  
18 Law, representing the excellence produced by historically Black  
19 educational institutions that served as pillars of opportunity when  
20 access elsewhere was limited; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Judge Adams returned to Jacksonville upon receiving a  
22 Reginald Heber Smith federally funded fellowship to work for Duval  
23 County Legal Aid and would go on to serve as an assistant public  
24 defender from 1969 to 1972, after which time he would enter private  
25 practice; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in 1979, Judge Adams made history when Governor Bob  
27 Graham appointed him as the first African-American judge to the Fourth  
28 Judicial Circuit in Northeast Florida and, in 1993, President Bill  
29 Clinton appointed him to the United States District Court for the  
30 Middle District of Florida, where he served with distinction and  
31 integrity throughout his tenure; and

1           **WHEREAS**, Judge Adams has also served as past president of the  
2 DW Perkins Bar Association and previously served on the boards of  
3 Communities in Schools and the Jacksonville Public Education Fund,  
4 further demonstrating his deep commitment to the City and its  
5 citizens; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Judge Adams has always taken pride in his Eastside  
7 roots, honoring the people and places that cultivated in him the  
8 character and strength that guided him throughout his journey, and  
9 his life and work continue to inspire generations of students, legal  
10 professionals, and community leaders throughout Jacksonville; now,  
11 therefore

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

13           **Section 1.**           The City Council hereby honors the life, legacy,  
14 and historic contributions of Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr., whose career  
15 stands as a symbol of Black advancement within the American legal  
16 profession and represents the excellence produced by Jacksonville's  
17 Historic Eastside.

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

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22 Form Approved:

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24 /S/Shannon MacGillis

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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