

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Freeman, Salem and Peluso:

3
4
5 **RESOLUTION 2024-264-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING OPERATION NEW HOPE ON THE
7 OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND RECOGNIZING
8 THE WORK THAT IT DOES IN THE JACKSONVILLE
9 COMMUNITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Operation New Hope was founded by former insurance
12 executive and local philanthropist Kevin Gay in 1999 to address the
13 issues of poverty, crime, homelessness, property disrepair, and drug
14 addiction in the Historic Springfield neighborhood of Jacksonville
15 through helping the formerly incarcerated; and

16 **WHEREAS**, believing that all are better than their worst
17 mistakes, Operation New Hope works to reduce recidivism by providing
18 life and job skills training for people with a history of criminal
19 justice system involvement; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Operation New Hope delivers pre-release services to
21 over 30 correctional facilities and post-release services at 4 program
22 locations in Florida through its Ready4Release, Ready4Work, and
23 Ready4Success programs, with each program providing support services
24 to people with various life experiences; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Operation New Hope has seen measurable success in its
26 goal of reducing recidivism among those who receive services, as the
27 Florida Department of Corrections' recidivism rate is 25.7% while
28 Operation New Hope's recidivism rate is 8.64%; and

29 **WHEREAS**, since 1999, Operation New Hope has served over 12,000
30 people impacted by the criminal justice system; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Operation New Hope has been recognized across

1 partisan lines, having been praised by the presidential
2 administrations of Clinton, Bush, Obama and Trump; and

3 **WHEREAS,** a new Tampa Bay location is expected to open in 2024
4 as Operation New Hope continues to grow in its efforts to reduce
5 recidivism for those impacted by the criminal justice system
6 throughout the state of Florida; and

7 **WHEREAS,** since July 2022 former Jacksonville City Council
8 Member and State Representative Reggie Fullwood has led Operation New
9 Hope as President and CEO, extending the work of Mr. Gay by obtaining
10 additional state and private funding; and

11 **WHEREAS,** 2024 marks the 25th anniversary of Operation New
12 Hope's founding; now therefore

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

14 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors Operation New
15 Hope and commends the organization for the necessary work that it
16 does to provide those impacted by the criminal justice system with a
17 deserved second chance to lead productive and happy lives. Recognizing
18 that this work enriches the community as well as those individuals
19 who are directly served by Operation New Hope, the City Council
20 expresses its gratitude for the work done over the past 25 years, its
21 congratulations for Operation New Hope in reaching the 25th
22 anniversary of its founding, and its best wishes for Operation New
23 Hope's continued success in its mission of reducing recidivism in
24 Jacksonville and across the state of Florida.

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

1 Form Approved:

2

3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Eamon Webb, City Council Research

6 GC-#1622959-v1-2024-264-A.docx