

1 Introduced by Council Members Dennis, Carlucci, Morgan, Ferraro:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-42**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING CITY
6 COUNCIL SECRETARY/DIRECTOR CHERYL L. BROWN FOR
7 HER DECADES OF ASSISTANCE TO THE JACKSONVILLE
8 CITY COUNCIL ON THE OCCASION OF HER
9 RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Cheryl Brown, a native of Nichols, Florida,
12 earned her bachelor's degree (*magna cum laude*) in Sociology and a
13 master's degree (*summa cum laude*) in Applied Social Sciences from
14 the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University where she was an
15 active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., served several
16 internships, and taught as an adjunct professor at the university;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, in June 1990 Dr. Brown was hired by the City Council
19 as a Policy Analyst and in January 1992 was promoted to Chief of
20 Policy Analysis (a title later changed to Chief of the Research
21 Division when the division was renamed in 2000); and

22 **WHEREAS**, in June 2001 Cheryl Brown was elevated to the
23 position of Council Secretary/Director, a position that combines
24 the administrative, management and leadership responsibilities of a
25 department director with the ministerial, archival, legislative,
26 and other duties of a city clerk, along with responsibility for the
27 county's Value Adjustment Board; and

28 **WHEREAS**, during her nearly 21 years as Council
29 Secretary/Director, Dr. Brown has successfully undertaken numerous
30 initiatives to keep the City Council on the leading edge of
31 technological advancements to both better serve the needs of the

1 City's elected officials and to increase transparency and the
2 general public's access to timely and complete information on the
3 activities of the City Council. Those initiatives include the audio
4 and video recording of Council, committee, and noticed member-to-
5 member meetings and making those recordings readily available to
6 the public via indexed on-line links to the City Council web site
7 or via hard media such as CDs and DVDs; the establishment of
8 dedicated email boxes for receiving public input on "hot topics" of
9 the day; the implementation of electronic meeting material
10 distribution and electronic voting via smart devices; the
11 installation of state-of-the-art computers, broadcast-quality
12 audio-visual technology and lighting in the City Council Chamber;
13 the addition of technology and staff to make possible the live
14 streaming of council members' town hall community meetings, public
15 hearings, and other events to provide the widest possible public
16 access; and many other similar initiatives; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Cheryl Brown was integrally involved, along with the
18 City's Ethics, Compliance and Oversight Office and the Office of
19 General Counsel, in developing, continually presenting, and
20 updating the most comprehensive training program of any local
21 government on ethics, "government in the sunshine", public records,
22 gift disclosure, lobbyist registration and other ethics-related
23 topics; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Brown has organized and continually stressed
25 employee orientation and on-going education efforts, particularly
26 the extremely thorough multi-day training given to new council
27 members and their executive assistants immediately after their
28 election as they ready themselves to take office; and

29 **WHEREAS**, one of Dr. Brown's signature accomplishments was
30 shepherding the City Council through the COVID-19 pandemic, which
31 entailed the gargantuan task of rapidly shifting the Council's

1 meetings and administrative functions from in-person to virtual
2 formats in a way that still complied with the state's open meeting
3 requirements, a task for which she was given the President's Award
4 by Council President Tommy Hazouri. Under her leadership the
5 Council implemented robust on-line meeting broadcast and
6 interactive participation technologies (email, Zoom meeting
7 software, etc.) so that the public could continue to observe and
8 fully participate in public meetings of all kinds during the
9 closure of City Hall. She also led the effort to return the
10 Council's meeting rooms and offices to safe public access as the
11 pandemic progressed through the installation of protective shields
12 around work spaces, the ready availability of personal protective
13 equipment and enhanced sanitizing practices, and other policies and
14 procedures that enabled the work of the government to resume in-
15 person while still taking all possible precautions to protect the
16 health and safety of both the general public and the Council's
17 staff and elected officials; and

18 **WHEREAS**, during her tenure with the City Council, Cheryl Brown
19 earned a doctoral degree in Counseling and Leadership Management
20 from World Bible College, was very involved in community
21 organizations, including serving on the boards of Girls, Inc., the
22 AME Academy of Excellence of North Florida, and the Florida Ballet,
23 and was a very active member of the Jerusalem Grand Chapter of the
24 Order of the Eastern Star, Heroines Jericho, Golden Circle,
25 Daughters of Isis, and Genesis Court #1, Prince Hall Affiliated.

26 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Brown is an effective and inspirational team
27 leader and has been an invaluable resource to the City Council
28 throughout her nearly thirty-two years with the Council staff, and
29 the Council is grateful for her years of service as she retires
30 from public service; now therefore

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

1 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
2 Dr. Cheryl Brown for her more than three decades of outstanding
3 service to the Jacksonville City Council and thanks her for her
4 leadership, innovation, and dedication to continually providing the
5 Council with the tools and the experienced personnel it needs to
6 fulfill its mission of service to our citizens. The Council extends
7 its grateful thanks for her invaluable service and her wise counsel
8 and friendship, and wishes her the very best of health and
9 happiness in her retirement.

10 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
11 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
12 without the Mayor's signature.

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14 Form Approved:

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16 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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