

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Clark-Murray, Ferraro,  
2 Pittman, Newby, Salem, Freeman and Diamond and Co-Sponsored by  
3 Council Members Morgan, Becton, and Gaffney, Jr.:

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6 **ORDINANCE 2022-795-E**

7 AN ORDINANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING THE LIFE  
8 AND LEGACY OF FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND  
9 CLERK OF THE COURTS HENRY W. COOK FOR HIS  
10 DECADES OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITY AND  
11 CITIZENS OF JACKSONVILLE; NAMING COMMITTEE  
12 ROOM B ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF CITY HALL IN  
13 MEMORIAM TO HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF  
14 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, Henry W. Cook, a native of Moultrie, Georgia,  
17 graduated from Moultrie High School and earned his bachelor's  
18 degree at Georgia Southwestern State University. He worked for 20  
19 years in Jacksonville's Office of the City Engineer from 1948 to  
20 1968, retiring as an Assistant Engineer, then owned and operated a  
21 commercial art screen processing company for another 20 years from  
22 1968 to 1988; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Cook spent several decades of his life in  
24 elective public service to the citizens of Jacksonville. In 1974 he  
25 was elected to the Jacksonville Civil Service Board, serving as its  
26 Chairman in 1976-77. In 1979, he was elected to the Jacksonville  
27 City Council representing At-Large Group 4 and was re-elected in  
28 1983. Henry W. Cook was twice elected by his colleagues as Council  
29 President (1982-83 and 1986-87), and also served as Chair of the  
30 Jacksonville Waterways Commission and of the Duval County Tourist  
31 Development Council; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in 1988, Mr. Cook was appointed Clerk of the Courts  
2 to fill a vacancy in the office and was subsequently elected later  
3 in 1988 to a full term and was re-elected in 1992 and 1996; and

4           **WHEREAS**, Henry W. Cook held numerous leadership positions in  
5 state and national organizations during his many years in elective  
6 office, including serving as President of the Florida League of  
7 Cities and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National  
8 League of Cities, as a member of the National Association of  
9 Counties' Public Safety Committee, and as President of the Florida  
10 Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers; and

11           **WHEREAS**, after his years in elected office were completed,  
12 Henry W. Cook continued to serve the City and the public in a wide  
13 variety of appointed roles, including as a City retiree  
14 representative on the Jacksonville Retirement System Board of  
15 Trustees and as a member of the Council on Elder Affairs; and

16           **WHEREAS**, his long and effective service in a variety of  
17 elected and appointed positions in city government does not even  
18 begin to take into consideration his decades of dedicated service  
19 in civic organizations ranging from the Jacksonville Jaycees (life  
20 member and former President) and Civitan (Charter President) to the  
21 Rotary Club, Spina Bifida Association, Morocco Shrine Temple and  
22 Retired City Employees Association (President); and

23           **WHEREAS**, Henry W. Cook was an accomplished artist,  
24 particularly as a painter of landscapes, and was especially known  
25 for the humorous caricatures he drew of his fellow public servants  
26 and particularly for the honorees of the Spina Bifida Foundation's  
27 annual Celebrity Roast fundraiser; and

28           **WHEREAS**, with Mr. Cook's recent passing at the age of 93, the  
29 city has lost a tremendous public servant and civic leader; and

30           **WHEREAS**, the Council would like to honor the life and legacy  
31 of former Council Member and Clerk of the Courts, Henry W. Cook, by

1 naming the committee room, now known as "Committee Room B" in City  
2 Hall on the first floor, to be known as the "Henry W. Cook Room";  
3 now therefore

4 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

5 **Section 1. Committee Room B, First Floor of City Hall**  
6 **Named the "Henry W. Cook" Room.** The committee room currently known  
7 as "Committee Room B" on the First Floor of City Hall, located at  
8 117 W. Duval Street, Jacksonville Florida 32202 is hereby named the  
9 "Henry W. Cook Room" in recognition of Mr. Cook's long career in  
10 public service to the City of Jacksonville and its citizens.

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

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15 Form Approved:

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17           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

18 Office of General Counsel

19 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

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