

Introduced by Council Member Johnson:

RESOLUTION 2025-413

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE THETA PHI CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI
FRATERNITY, INC., AND RECOGNIZING ITS CENTURY OF
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE, BROTHERHOOD, AND COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP IN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded in 1911
at Howard University upon the cardinal principles of Manhood,
Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift—principles that continue to
serve as both compass and creed for its members; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 1925, the Theta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi
Phi Fraternity, Inc., was chartered in the City of Jacksonville,
Florida, becoming the first chapter in the State of Florida,
established through the unwavering dedication of Brother W.W. Blocker
and founding members Brothers W.A. Busch, G.H. Leggett, R.L. Brown,
and J.A. Thomas; and

WHEREAS, the men of the Theta Phi Chapter immediately set out
to make meaningful contributions to the civic, cultural, educational,
and spiritual life of Jacksonville, championing the study of African
American history, advocating for the inclusion of Negro achievement
in public education, and uplifting the legacy of national heroes like
Brother Charles Young; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter's early leadership included trailblazers
such as Brother D.W. Perkins, one of Jacksonville's most esteemed
attorneys and civic leaders; Brother I.E. Williams, a distinguished
physician; Brother F.M. Morton, a revered educator; and Brothers J.E.

1 Ford and E.J. Gregg, pastoral giants who brought the ministry of
2 Omega into the hearts of Jacksonville's faithful; and

3 **WHEREAS,** for one hundred years, the Theta Phi Chapter has stood
4 as a beacon of excellence, fortitude, and purpose, its roster a
5 tapestry of educators, entrepreneurs, clergy, public servants, and
6 community advocates whose contributions have not only enriched
7 Jacksonville but have helped elevate the broader arc of Black
8 excellence across the South; and

9 **WHEREAS,** Theta Phi has embraced the call to service through
10 voter engagement, scholarship endowments, social justice work, and
11 relentless mentorship, ensuring that Omega's principles echo not just
12 in ceremony but in practice throughout Duval County and beyond; and

13 **WHEREAS,** it is altogether fitting and proper that the City of
14 Jacksonville salute and uplift this landmark occasion, honoring a
15 century of "Friendship is Essential to the Soul" and a legacy of
16 leadership forged not in comfort, but in courage; now therefore

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

18 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and celebrates
19 the 100th Anniversary of the Theta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi
20 Fraternity, Inc., and commends its members, past and present, for
21 their unwavering commitment to service, leadership, and uplift in
22 Jacksonville and the State of Florida. The Council extends heartfelt
23 gratitude to the men of Theta Phi for a century of stewardship in
24 shaping young minds, building stronger communities, and exemplifying
25 the enduring power of Brotherhood.

26 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
27 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
28 without the Mayor's signature.
29
30
31

Form Approved:

/s/ Shannon MacGillis

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

GC-#1688735-v1-Honoring_100th_Annv_of_Theta_Phi_Chapter_.docx