

1 Introduced by Council Member Amaro:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-857**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
6 PASSING OF ELDER MARY JEAN MATHIS JONES, FIRST
7 LADY OF PHILIPPIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH; REQUESTING
8 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING
9 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS,** Mary Jean Mathis Jones grew up in Jacksonville, and
12 she attended Matthew Gilbert High School and Florida Community
13 College; and

14 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones was the matriarch of the Jones
15 family, she shared 47 years of wedded bliss with Bishop Virgil Jones,
16 and together they raised Latisa (Kevin) McKenzie; Aaron (Stephanie);
17 Virgil, Jr. (LaStocia), and Jermel (Courtney) Jones, and were later
18 blessed with 8 grandchildren; and

19 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones was a woman of unwavering faith who
20 received salvation in 1977, she had great zeal to evangelize and
21 share the gospel, and she shared the good news throughout the City;
22 and

23 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones was a staunch advocate for children
24 and was instrumental in establishing Vacation Bible School, the Back
25 to School Rally, the Adopt-A-Child program, tutoring and other
26 programs at Philipppian Community Church; and

27 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones encouraged women's spiritual
28 empowerment, she was constantly at her husband's side providing
29 assistance in whatever area needed, and she served as a guiding mentor
30 for new converts; and

31 **WHEREAS,** Elder Mary Jones demonstrated her faith with acts of

1 service, she always led with grace, love and compassion, and she was
2 known for her strength, perseverance, and diligence for the work of
3 God; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on Sunday October 13, 2024, the beloved First Lady,
5 Elder Mary Jean Mathis Jones transitioned after an inspirational
6 life, leaving a legacy that will be remembered for generations to
7 come; now therefore

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

9 **Section 1.** The Council hereby honors the life of Elder Mary
10 Jean Mathis Jones, the First Lady of Philipian Community Church, a
11 loving wife, dedicated mother, a pillar of the community, and a dear
12 friend to so many. The City Council extends condolences to the Jones
13 family and friends, congregants, and to all mourning her passing.

14 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
15 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
16 introduction of this legislation is requested so that this Resolution
17 can be presented to the Jones family at the memorial service.

18 **Section 3. 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: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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