

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman:
2
3

4 **RESOLUTION 2023-681**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
6 PASSING OF MARVIN CECIL "CEREE" HARDEN III;
7 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
8

9 **WHEREAS,** Marvin Cecil "Ceree" Harden III was a native of
10 Jacksonville, born on May 4, 1953, to M.C. and Edith Harden, and he
11 grew up in the Northside and Arlington neighborhoods with his three
12 siblings Paul, Steve and Donna; and

13 **WHEREAS,** a proud graduate of Terry Parker High School and the
14 University of Florida, Ceree Harden stepped in at the age of 26 to
15 take over Harden Insurance Services after his father's sudden death.
16 Under his guidance, the company grew to be one of the Southeast's
17 most prominent independent insurance brokerage and consulting firms.
18 His leadership fostered a deep sense of loyalty that led many to
19 dedicate their entire careers to the firm, creating not just a
20 workplace but a second family for many; and

21 **WHEREAS,** Ceree Harden embodied the spirit of a true servant
22 leader, serving on numerous entities including the Baptist Health
23 System Board, the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission,
24 Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville Community
25 Council's Quality of Life Committee, the Florida Association of
26 Insurance Agents, the boards of Jacksonville Port Authority, FPIC
27 Insurance Group, Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Episcopal School
28 of Jacksonville, and The River Club. Additionally, he was honored
29 with the prestigious Hope Award, the National Multiple Sclerosis
30 Society's highest tribute for exceptional civic and community
31 service; and

1 **WHEREAS,** Ceree Harden's family was his ultimate joy and
2 motivation, he shared a close life-long bond with his siblings, he
3 adored his wife Shannon, he treasured each of his children, and doted
4 on his grandchildren. He shared his joy of traveling with his big
5 family, with especially memorable trips to Vancouver, Canada, the
6 Tuscan countryside, and Sea Island. Ceree Harden's legacy lives on
7 in the hearts of his family, friends, and the city he so profoundly
8 impacted; now therefore

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

10 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life
11 well lived by Marvin Cecil "Ceree" Harden III, a deeply beloved
12 father, husband, brother, grandfather, uncle, and friend. Ceree
13 Harden was a pillar of our community, a prominent business and civic
14 leader and tireless community servant. Jacksonville City Council
15 extends condolences to the Harden family upon his passing, with the
16 wish that his memory provides comfort to those grieving his loss
17 and that his legacy of service will carry on as a family tradition.

18 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
19 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
20 without the Mayor's signature.

21
22 Form Approved:

23
24 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

27 GC-#1589571-v1-Freeman_Reso_-_Honoring_Harden_III.docx