

1 Introduced by Council Members Amaro, Johnson, Salem, M. Carlucci,
2 Boylan, Peluso, Miller, and Howland and Co-Sponsored by Council
3 Members Gaffney, Jr. and Pittman:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2026-195-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND
8 HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE HENRY LEE ADAMS,
9 JR.; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr., was born April 8, 1945, in
12 Jacksonville's Historic Eastside – one of the City's most culturally
13 significant African American communities – during the era of
14 segregation, where his parents instilled in him the values of faith,
15 discipline, education, and perseverance; and

16 **WHEREAS**, upon graduation from Matthew Gilbert High School, Judge
17 Adams received his bachelor's degree in political science from Florida
18 A&M University and his law degree from Howard University School of
19 Law, representing the excellence produced by historically Black
20 educational institutions that served as pillars of opportunity when
21 access elsewhere was limited; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Judge Adams returned to Jacksonville upon receiving a
23 Reginald Heber Smith federally funded fellowship to work for Duval
24 County Legal Aid and would go on to serve as an assistant public
25 defender from 1969 to 1972, after which time he would enter private
26 practice; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in 1979, Judge Adams made history when Governor Bob
28 Graham appointed him as the first African-American judge to the Fourth
29 Judicial Circuit in Northeast Florida and, in 1993, President Bill
30 Clinton appointed him to the United States District Court for the
31 Middle District of Florida, where he served with distinction and

1 integrity throughout his tenure; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Judge Adams has also served as past president of the
3 DW Perkins Bar Association and previously served on the boards of
4 Communities in Schools and the Jacksonville Public Education Fund,
5 further demonstrating his deep commitment to the City and its
6 citizens; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Judge Adams has always taken pride in his Eastside
8 roots, honoring the people and places that cultivated in him the
9 character and strength that guided him throughout his journey, and
10 his life and work continue to inspire generations of students, legal
11 professionals, and community leaders throughout Jacksonville; now,
12 therefore

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

14 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors the life, legacy,
15 and historic contributions of Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr., whose career
16 stands as a symbol of Black advancement within the American legal
17 profession and represents the excellence produced by Jacksonville's
18 Historic Eastside.

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

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23 Form Approved:

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25 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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