

1 Introduced by Council Members Pittman and Johnson and Co-Sponsored
2 by Council Member Carrico:
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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-82-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING DELTA SIGMA
7 THETA, INCORPORATED, AND THE JACKSONVILLE
8 ALUMNAE CHAPTER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 80TH
9 ANNIVERSARY, CELEBRATING EIGHT DECADES OF
10 LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, SCHOLARSHIP, AND SOCIAL
11 ACTION, RECOGNIZING NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL,
12 AND LOCAL IMPACT AND ACKNOWLEDGING A
13 DISTINGUISHED LEGACY OF CIVIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND
14 POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA;
15 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, was founded
18 on January 13, 1913, by twenty-two visionary collegiate women at
19 Howard University, grounded in the principles of scholarship,
20 sisterhood, and service, and committed from its inception to the
21 intellectual, social, and civic advancement of Black women and the
22 communities they serve; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, has grown
24 into a global sisterhood of more than 350,000 predominately Black
25 college-educated women, organized through more than 1,000 collegiate
26 and alumnae chapters across the United States and abroad, whose
27 collective work has shaped public policy, strengthened democratic
28 institutions, and advanced equity and opportunity worldwide; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Sorority's enduring impact is guided by its Five-
30 Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development, Educational
31 Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and

1 Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement; an
2 intentional framework that has produced measurable, transformative
3 outcomes for families, communities, and nations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on February 9, 1946, the Alpha Iota Sigma Chapter of
5 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, now known as the
6 Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter, was officially chartered in
7 Jacksonville, Florida, marking the beginning of a proud, powerful,
8 and uninterrupted legacy of service, that spans eighty years of
9 excellence in this city; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta
11 Sorority, Incorporated, has consistently distinguished itself as a
12 cornerstone institution within Jacksonville's civic and nonprofit
13 ecosystem, advancing youth development, educational access, public
14 health awareness, housing stability, cultural enrichment, and civic
15 engagement through innovative, sustained, and community-centered
16 programming; and

17 **WHEREAS**, notable Chapter initiatives include the Miss Delta Teen
18 Pageant, the establishment of Jacksonville's first Head Start
19 program, the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home through
20 Habijax, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention efforts, and the
21 successful establishment of collegiate chapters at Edward Waters
22 University, the University of North Florida, and Jacksonville
23 University, thereby ensuring leadership continuity across
24 generations; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter holds a singular place
26 of honor within Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, through the
27 membership and lifelong service of Founder Winona Cargile Alexander,
28 whose extraordinary life of faith, scholarship, social work, and
29 civic leadership in Jacksonville embodied the very ideals upon which
30 the Sorority was founded; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the charter members and early leaders of the

1 Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter, Florida Cave Alexander, Lillie Belle
2 Blackshear, Mozelle Bruton, Thelma Livingston, Willie Lee Lucas,
3 Hazel Overstreet, Fay Solomon, along with instrumental Sorors
4 Gwendolyn Leapheart, Ali Thorpe, and Luella White, laid an unshakable
5 foundation of excellence, discipline, and public service that
6 continues to guide the Chapter's work today; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter is an award-winning
8 body currently led by the 30th President Christina Stallings, whose
9 stewardship reflects a bold, disciplined, and forward-looking
10 commitment to service, collaboration, and measurable impact, ensuring
11 that the Chapter remains both historically rooted and future-focused
12 in its mission; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, has
14 demonstrated extraordinary civic and political leadership in
15 Jacksonville, with Sorors who have answered the call to public service
16 at the highest levels, including former School Board Member Gwen
17 Gibson and Senator Audrey Gibson, former State Representative Willye
18 Frank Clayton Dennis, former City Council Member Dr. Gwen J. Chandler,
19 former School Board Chair and City Council Member Brenda Priestly
20 Jackson, and City Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman, each exemplifying
21 principled leadership, public accountability, and service to the
22 people; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the collective legacy of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
24 Incorporated, in Jacksonville reflects an unbroken continuum of
25 leadership that bridges community service and public office, faith
26 and action, scholarship and policy, thereby shaping the moral,
27 educational, and civic fabric of the city; now therefore

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

29 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
30 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and the Jacksonville
31 Alumnae Chapter upon the occasion of its 80th Anniversary, celebrating

1 eight decades of unwavering commitment to love in action, leadership
2 with purpose, and service with measurable impact. The Council
3 recognizes the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter as a model of civic
4 excellence whose work has strengthened families, expanded
5 opportunity, shaped public policy, and uplifted generations of
6 Jacksonville residents. The legacy of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
7 Incorporated, in Jacksonville stands as a living testament to the
8 power of organized service, educated leadership, and collective
9 responsibility.

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

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14 Form Approved:

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16 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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