

1 Introduced by Council Member DeFoor and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Morgan, Newby, Diamond & Becton:

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4
5 **RESOLUTION 2022-521-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING JAMES FRANK SURFACE
7 JUNIOR'S LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENTS; PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, James Frank Surface, Junior was born March 15, 1938 in
11 Salem, Virginia, and was the son of James Frank Surface, Senior and
12 his wife Myrtle, and younger brother to Bobbi and Jackie. The family
13 made Jacksonville their home when Frank, Senior was appointed area
14 sales manager for the Jergens Soap Company; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in Jacksonville, Frank Surface, Junior attended West
16 Riverside Elementary and John Gorrie Junior High. In 1956, he
17 graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, where he excelled at
18 academics and athletics and where he formed friendships that would
19 last a lifetime; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Surface graduated from Washington and Lee University
21 in Lexington, Virginia in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science degree in
22 business management. While in college, he was president of the student
23 body, dorm counselor, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa fraternity, and
24 captain of the basketball team. Washington and Lee was also where
25 Frank met the love of his life, Sally Holcomb, a student at nearby
26 Hollins University; they married in 1961; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Washington and Lee University always held a special
28 place in Mr. Surface's heart, and all three of his sons attended the
29 school. He later served on the school's board of trustees for nearly
30 a decade, and was sworn in as rector in 1997, serving in that position
31 for six years. As an alumnus, he was also a founding member of the

1 school's Institute of Honor, established in 2000, and chaired his
2 50th reunion, which endowed the Class of 1960 Professorship in Ethics;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, Frank Surface Jr. was always an ambitious worker, from
5 his early days as a pin setter in a bowling alley and managing two
6 before school paper routes, to the summers as an electrician's mate
7 at the old Jacksonville Shipyards downtown. After graduating from
8 law school at the University of Florida, Surface began his career
9 as a practicing attorney at Mahoney, Hadlow, Chambers and Adams,
10 eventually becoming managing partner of the firm; and

11 **WHEREAS**, known as "Big Frank" to his family and friends, Mr.
12 Surface was a successful corporate lawyer and entrepreneur, founding
13 several lucrative businesses including the former Stand N Snack
14 franchises, Lakeshore Dry Storage Marina, Costa Verde Plaza and Vista
15 de Mar, the first condominiums in Jacksonville Beach, and Vesta
16 Property Services headquartered in Riverside; and

17 **WHEREAS**, throughout his life, Mr. Surface was active in the local
18 community, serving as a founding member of St. Mark's Episcopal Day
19 School, the Jacksonville Zoological Society, Enterprise Florida and
20 Central Jacksonville, Inc. He was chairman of Leadership
21 Jacksonville, the March of Dimes Campaign, the Jacksonville Charter
22 Revision Commission, and served on the board of The Bolles School,
23 St. Mark's Episcopal Church Foundation, and the Jacksonville Chamber
24 of Commerce; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Frank Surface Junior passed away suddenly on July 17,
26 2020 at the age of 82. To those who knew him, Mr. Surface will be
27 remembered as a doer, a person of great integrity and a family man
28 who adored his wife Sally, and their three sons, Frank III, David,
29 and John, their wives Heather, Marchant and Kristen, and his eight
30 grandchildren Jamie, Peyton, Hadley, Gracie, King, Spencer, Eve and
31 Bennett; now therefore

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

2 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors Frank
3 Surface Junior's lifetime of achievements and recognizes that our
4 city was made better through his service, determination and
5 imagination. Jacksonville City Council extends condolences to the
6 Surface family in hopes that his memory will provide comfort to those
7 who know and loved him.

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

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12 Form Approved:

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14
15 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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