

1 Introduced by Council Members Dennis, Carlucci, Morgan, Ferraro and
2 Co-Sponsored by Council Members Salem, DeFoor, Carrico, Becton,
3 Newby, Priestly Jackson, Freeman & Pittman:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2022-42-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING CITY
8 COUNCIL SECRETARY/DIRECTOR CHERYL L. BROWN FOR
9 HER DECADES OF ASSISTANCE TO THE JACKSONVILLE
10 CITY COUNCIL ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT;
11 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Cheryl Brown, a native of Nichols, Florida, earned
14 her bachelor's degree (*magna cum laude*) in Sociology and a master's
15 degree (*summa cum laude*) in Applied Social Sciences from the Florida
16 Agricultural and Mechanical University where she was an active member
17 of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., served several internships, and
18 taught as an adjunct professor at the university; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in June 1990 Dr. Brown was hired by the City Council
20 as a Policy Analyst and in January 1992 was promoted to Chief of
21 Policy Analysis (a title later changed to Chief of the Research
22 Division when the division was renamed in 2000); and

23 **WHEREAS**, in June 2001 Cheryl Brown was elevated to the position
24 of Council Secretary/Director, a position that combines the
25 administrative, management and leadership responsibilities of a
26 department director with the ministerial, archival, legislative, and
27 other duties of a city clerk, along with responsibility for the
28 county's Value Adjustment Board; and

29 **WHEREAS**, during her nearly 21 years as Council
30 Secretary/Director, Dr. Brown has successfully undertaken numerous
31 initiatives to keep the City Council on the leading edge of

1 technological advancements to both better serve the needs of the
2 City's elected officials and to increase transparency and the general
3 public's access to timely and complete information on the activities
4 of the City Council. Those initiatives include the audio and video
5 recording of Council, committee, and noticed member-to-member
6 meetings and making those recordings readily available to the public
7 via indexed on-line links to the City Council web site or via hard
8 media such as CDs and DVDs; the establishment of dedicated email
9 boxes for receiving public input on "hot topics" of the day; the
10 implementation of electronic meeting material distribution and
11 electronic voting via smart devices; the installation of state-of-
12 the-art computers, broadcast-quality audio-visual technology and
13 lighting in the City Council Chamber; the addition of technology and
14 staff to make possible the live streaming of council members' town
15 hall community meetings, public hearings, and other events to provide
16 the widest possible public access; and many other similar initiatives;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, Cheryl Brown was integrally involved, along with the
19 City's Ethics, Compliance and Oversight Office and the Office of
20 General Counsel, in developing, continually presenting, and updating
21 the most comprehensive training program of any local government on
22 ethics, "government in the sunshine", public records, gift
23 disclosure, lobbyist registration and other ethics-related topics;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Brown has organized and continually stressed
26 employee orientation and on-going education efforts, particularly the
27 extremely thorough multi-day training given to new council members
28 and their executive assistants immediately after their election as
29 they ready themselves to take office; and

30 **WHEREAS**, one of Dr. Brown's signature accomplishments was
31 shepherding the City Council through the COVID-19 pandemic, which

1 entailed the gargantuan task of rapidly shifting the Council's
2 meetings and administrative functions from in-person to virtual
3 formats in a way that still complied with the state's open meeting
4 requirements, a task for which she was given the President's Award
5 by Council President Tommy Hazouri. Under her leadership the Council
6 implemented robust on-line meeting broadcast and interactive
7 participation technologies (email, Zoom meeting software, etc.) so
8 that the public could continue to observe and fully participate in
9 public meetings of all kinds during the closure of City Hall. She
10 also led the effort to return the Council's meeting rooms and offices
11 to safe public access as the pandemic progressed through the
12 installation of protective shields around work spaces, the ready
13 availability of personal protective equipment and enhanced sanitizing
14 practices, and other policies and procedures that enabled the work
15 of the government to resume in-person while still taking all possible
16 precautions to protect the health and safety of both the general
17 public and the Council's staff and elected officials; and

18 **WHEREAS**, during her tenure with the City Council, Cheryl Brown
19 earned a doctoral degree in Counseling and Leadership Management from
20 World Bible College, was very involved in community organizations,
21 including serving on the boards of Girls, Inc., the AME Academy of
22 Excellence of North Florida, and the Florida Ballet, and was a very
23 active member of the Jerusalem Grand Chapter of the Order of the
24 Eastern Star, Heroines Jericho, Golden Circle, Daughters of Isis, and
25 Genesis Court #1, Prince Hall Affiliated.

26 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Brown is an effective and inspirational team leader
27 and has been an invaluable resource to the City Council throughout
28 her nearly thirty-two years with the Council staff, and the Council
29 is grateful for her years of service as she retires from public
30 service; now therefore

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

1 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends Dr.
2 Cheryl Brown for her more than three decades of outstanding service
3 to the Jacksonville City Council and thanks her for her leadership,
4 innovation, and dedication to continually providing the Council with
5 the tools and the experienced personnel it needs to fulfill its
6 mission of service to our citizens. The Council extends its grateful
7 thanks for her invaluable service and her wise counsel and friendship,
8 and wishes her the very best of health and happiness in her
9 retirement.

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/ Margaret M. Sidman

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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