

1 Introduced by Council Members Gaffney and Newby:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-101**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
6 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FORMER SCHOOL BOARD
7 MEMBER AND CIVIC LEADER JIMMIE ALPHONSO "TAB"
8 JOHNSON; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Jimmie Alphonso Johnson, a Jacksonville native,
11 graduated from Stanton Senior High School in 1952 and earned his
12 bachelor's and master's degrees in education and leadership at Florida
13 A&M University where he played on the football team and was
14 commissioned in the U.S. Army Reserves after his ROTC service; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Johnson worked briefly for the U.S. Postal Service
16 before beginning a long career as an educator in Northwest
17 Jacksonville, first as a teacher at Moncrief Elementary School and
18 then as a teacher, assistant and head football coach, athletic
19 director, assistant principal and principal over the course of 37
20 years at Northwestern Junior-Senior High School, Jean Ribault High
21 School, Stanton Vocational High School, New Stanton High School, and
22 William Raines High School, where he served as Principal for 16 years,
23 the school's longest-serving principal; and

24 **WHEREAS**, following his retirement from coaching and school
25 leadership, Coach Johnson continued his public service by winning a
26 seat on the Duval County School Board and being re-elected to a second
27 term, and serving as the Chair of the School Board in 2001; and

28 **WHEREAS**, in addition to his service in the school system, Jimmie
29 Johnson was a Director of the Florida High School Athletic
30 Association, President of the Gateway Athletic Conference, served on
31 the boards of directors of Communities in Schools and Learn to Read,

1 served his lifetime church, St. Paul A.M.E., as a board trustee and
2 Sunday School Superintendent, and was one of the original founders
3 of the Bob Hayes Track Meet, the largest track and field meet for
4 high school students in the United States; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Coach Johnson often said that his life was shaped by
6 the influence of his own coaches, including the late Chappie James,
7 Edwin Lawson, James Smalls, Theodore Montgomery, Jake Gaither and
8 Pete Griffin and role models, William Weathersbee, Dr. Alvin White
9 and Earl Kitchings. The lessons he learned from these giants
10 translated into guiding principles in his life and later with his own
11 students. It was his love for football and mentoring young men that
12 propelled his career into life as an educator who positively
13 influenced the lives of tens of thousands of students over a long and
14 distinguished career in the Duval public schools; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the City Council was saddened to learn of the recent
16 passing of this outstanding leader and community servant, who was
17 preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Thelma Whitted Johnson;
18 now therefore

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

20 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
21 the life and countless achievements of Jimmie Alphonso "Tab" Johnson
22 and extends to his family, friends, and countless admirers the City's
23 sincere condolences upon his passing. Coach Johnson was an
24 extraordinary leader and mentor and his service to our community in
25 many capacities will be long and gratefully remembered.

26 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
27 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
28 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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