

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney and Co-Sponsored by Salem,
2 Becton, Morgan, Bowman, DeFoor, Cumber, Dennis & Priestly Jackson:
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5 **RESOLUTION 2022-222-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE PUBLIC
7 SERVICE CAREER OF STATE SENATOR AUDREY GIBSON ON
8 THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE FLORIDA
9 SENATE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Audrey Gibson, a Jacksonville native whose father was
12 an educator at Douglas Anderson High School and whose mother was a
13 nursing instructor at the Brewster School of Nursing and later a dean
14 at Florida Junior College, earned an associate's degree from Florida
15 State College at Jacksonville and received her bachelor's degree in
16 criminology from Florida State University; and

17 **WHEREAS**, moving to California, Ms. Gibson worked first in the
18 Orange County District Attorney's Office and then as a district office
19 administrator for a Congressman in Compton, California before making
20 an unsuccessful run for a seat in the California State Assembly; and

21 **WHEREAS**, returning to Jacksonville, Audrey Gibson took a
22 position as a Business Community Liaison for the Jacksonville Job
23 Corps and then as a paralegal with a prominent Jacksonville law firm,
24 and began re-integrating herself into her hometown and its issues;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, her first electoral success was achieved when she was
27 elected to the Florida House of Representatives' 15th District in 2002
28 on a platform emphasizing creation of well-paying jobs, workforce
29 development, improved funding for education, and "people issues." She
30 was re-elected three more times and after being term-limited in the
31 House in 2010, successfully ran and was elected to the Florida Senate

1 in 2011 in a special election to fill the vacant 1st District, which
2 has since been redrawn twice and had her representing the 9th and now
3 the 6th District; and

4 **WHEREAS**, throughout her career in the Florida Legislature,
5 Representative and now Senator Gibson has developed a reputation as
6 a savvy legislator not afraid to "cross the aisle" and work with
7 legislators of both parties to find common ground and achieve the
8 best possible outcomes for Florida's citizens. That reputation as a
9 consensus builder sincerely interested in getting things done while
10 remaining a forceful advocate for issues important to her party led
11 to her election in 2018 as Senate Minority Leader by the body's
12 Democrats; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in addition to her work in the legislature, Audrey
14 Gibson has been extremely active in the community, holding
15 affiliations with numerous agencies working on causes in which she
16 believes, from serving on the board of Community Hospice of Northeast
17 Florida and the Scenic Jacksonville Advisory Board to the Northwest
18 Jacksonville Community Development Corporation and the Jacksonville
19 Public Library Advisory Board. Because of her effective leadership
20 and advocacy, she has been the recipient of awards and honors too
21 numerous to even begin to mention; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Senator Gibson has been a powerful advocate for the
23 interests of the Jacksonville area and has championed numerous causes
24 at the state level on behalf of the citizens of Florida, including
25 education funding, small business development and economic
26 opportunity, elder care safety issues, criminal justice integrity
27 review, and many others, always promoting prosperity, safety, and
28 opportunity for Floridians to improve their quality of life; now
29 therefore

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

31 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends the

1 public service career of Audrey Gibson and expresses its profound
2 gratitude to Senator Gibson for her two decades of outstanding service
3 in the Florida Legislature representing the interests of the City and
4 the citizens of Jacksonville. Her diligence and strong advocacy for
5 the needs and desires of Jacksonville and Northeast Florida have been
6 of tremendous value and are greatly appreciated. The Council extends
7 its best wishes to Senator Gibson as she retires from the Senate and
8 prepares for new challenges and opportunities in her life.

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

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13 Form Approved:

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15 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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