

1 Introduced by Council Member Newby and Co-Sponsored by Council Members
2 Salem, Morgan, Howland, Becton, Diamond, Gaffney & Priestly Jackson:
3
4

5 **RESOLUTION 2022-334-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING DANIEL WEBSTER PERKINS'
7 LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CELEBRATING THE
8 DEDICATION OF THE DUVAL COUNTY COURTHOUSE JURY
9 ASSEMBLY ROOM TO BE NAMED IN HIS HONOR;
10 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Daniel Webster Perkins was born in 1879 in Elizabeth
13 City, North Carolina, and earned college degrees from North Carolina
14 State Normal College and Temple University, and his law degree from
15 Shaw University Law School; and

16 **WHEREAS**, D.W. Perkins, Esquire, was admitted to the Florida Bar
17 in 1914, and one year later he argued a landmark case before the
18 Florida Supreme Court to integrate juries; and

19 **WHEREAS**, after practicing law in Knoxville, Tennessee and Tampa,
20 Florida, D.W. Perkins moved to Jacksonville in 1919 where he practiced
21 law until his death in 1972; and

22 **WHEREAS**, throughout his career, D.W. Perkins held positions of
23 trust in a myriad of professional, educational, civic and political
24 organizations. He was a staunch proponent of civil rights and
25 community activism, and was a mentor and role model to generations
26 of African American attorneys; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in 1968, the former Colored Lawyers Association changed
28 its name to the Daniel Webster Perkins Bar Association, Inc. in honor
29 of founding member D.W. Perkins, the great legal pioneer and one of
30 the first African Americans to practice law in Duval County. In 2019,
31 D.W. Perkins was inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame;

1 and

2 **WHEREAS**, the Duval County Courthouse houses courtrooms and
3 judges from the Duval County and Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts.
4 Construction began on the new facility downtown in 2009, and it opened
5 in 2012; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the right to a trial by jury is a principle enshrined
7 in the U.S. Constitution, and jury service is fundamental to our
8 American legal system, and prospective jurors should reflect a cross-
9 section of all members of the local community; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Duval
11 County Courthouse, the Jury Assembly Room will be dedicated in honor
12 of D.W. Perkins, the distinguished lawyer, community leader and
13 prominent civil rights supporter. The dedication ceremony at the
14 Duval County Courthouse will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at
15 4:00 p.m.; now therefore

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

17 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the
18 memory of Daniel Webster Perkins, his historical contribution to our
19 city, and his lifetime of achievements. Jacksonville City Council
20 celebrates the dedication of the Duval County Courthouse Jury Assembly
21 Room, to be named in D.W. Perkins' honor.

22 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
23 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
24 without the Mayor's signature.

25
26 Form Approved:

27
28 _____/s/ Paige H. Johnston

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

31 GC-#1494590-v1-Newby_-_DW_Perkins_Jury_Room.docx