

1 Introduced by Council President Newby:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-468**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE WORK OF
6 KEVIN T. GAY AS THE CEO AND FOUNDER OF OPERATION
7 NEW HOPE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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10 **WHEREAS**, Kevin T. Gay is a native of Jacksonville and a graduate
11 of the University of Florida. He is the CEO and Founder of Operation
12 New Hope; he has many years of entrepreneurial experience and a deep
13 commitment to revitalizing urban neighborhoods. He combines this with
14 his strong faith and a special interest in helping the underserved
15 in communities who seek a way out of the cycle of addiction, poverty,
16 and incarceration; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gay left corporate America in 1999 and founded
18 Operation New Hope to create a new model for community development.
19 In June of 2002, Mr. Gay was invited to meet with President George
20 W. Bush and Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and this meeting led to
21 Operation New Hope being selected by the White House to develop the
22 first national model for Prisoner Re-entry called Ready4Work. This
23 employment-based re-entry model was then introduced in 16 other cities
24 around the country. Ready4Work Jacksonville has gained national
25 attention because of its impact in reducing recidivism; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gay is a founding member of Reconcile Jacksonville,
27 which has been responsible for partnering with over 40 black and
28 white churches since 1992. In 2003, the City of Jacksonville nominated
29 Mr. Gay for a national award through Neighborhoods USA and on May 22,
30 2003 he and nine others from around the country received the
31 prestigious Neighborhoods USA Notables Award. Mr. Gay served on

1 President-Elect Barack Obama's Advisory Council for the White House
2 Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships during the
3 transition in 2009 and 2010. He also served on the transition teams
4 for Jacksonville Mayor's Alvin Brown in 2011 and on Mayor Lenny
5 Curry's in 2015; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2013, Mr. Gay was the only CEO from a non-profit
7 organization to be honored by the Jacksonville Business Journal with
8 the Ultimate CEO Award. Mr. Gay is a graduate of the Leadership
9 Jacksonville Class of 2015 and co-hosted Operation Reform in
10 Jacksonville in November 2015. Operation Reform was a national
11 bipartisan summit on criminal justice reform and reentry solutions.
12 It was the largest gathering of thought-leaders, government
13 officials, re-entry providers, and media; now therefore

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

15 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
16 commends the work of Kevin T. Gay as the CEO and Founder of Operation
17 New Hope for his overall positive impact on the community in
18 Jacksonville on his retirement after 23 years of service in this
19 role.

20 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.
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25 Form Approved:
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27 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Richard Distel, City Council Research

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