

1 Introduced by Council Member Morgan:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-472**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE GAMMA
6 RHO OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY,
7 INCORPORATED ON THE OCCASION OF THE 80TH
8 ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING; PROVIDING AN
9 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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11 **WHEREAS,** Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha,
12 Incorporated was chartered in Jacksonville on June 23, 1942 when ten
13 college-educated, enterprising, dedicated and civic-minded young
14 women who had become members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on
15 various college campuses became the Chapter's charter members; and

16 **WHEREAS,** throughout its history, Gamma Rho Omega Chapter has
17 been committed to and actively engaged in service to the community.
18 In 1942, the year of the chapter's charter, the chapter held a
19 Thanksgiving Basket project, and subsequent projects throughout the
20 decades have included the college scholarship program, voter
21 registration drives, voters information projects, reading tutorial
22 programs, the Ebony Fashion Show, the Camp Blanding Troops project,
23 the Shoe Fund for school age children, assistance to the Clara White
24 Mission, Christmas Seal Drive, and countless other initiatives to
25 enhance the community, strengthen families, support education and
26 better the lives of the underserved; and

27 **WHEREAS,** for 80 years, Gamma Rho Omega Chapter has provided
28 scholarships for young women seeking to further their education,
29 promoted leadership development in the Chapter and the community,
30 supported historically black colleges and universities, addressed
31 community health issues, supported organizations such as the American

1 Cancer Society and the American Red Cross, and supported service
2 organizations such as the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women,
3 and the United Negro College Fund. Most recently the chapter developed
4 and implemented a Jacksonville Black Historical Bus Tour and created
5 a virtual tour and installed bronze markers at notable Black
6 historical sites in Jacksonville; and

7 **WHEREAS,** as an affirmation of its commitment to education and
8 preparing young women for leadership roles in the community, the
9 nation and the world, Gamma Rho Omega Chapter sponsors three
10 undergraduate chapters: Nu Iota at Edward Waters College, Mu Theta
11 at the University of North Florida, and Omicron Delta at Jacksonville
12 University; and

13 **WHEREAS,** on January 23, 1952, Gamma Rho Omega chapter sponsored
14 nationally acclaimed opera star Marian Anderson in concert in
15 Jacksonville, thus becoming the first organization to present a
16 program to an integrated audience in the city. The chapter received
17 national recognition for this accomplishment; and

18 **WHEREAS,** the Gamma Rho Omega Chapter proudly produced the 25th
19 International President (1998-2002) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
20 Incorporated, Norma Solomon White, a Jacksonville native who
21 graduated from Stanton High School, earned her bachelor's degree at
22 Florida A&M University, took her master's degree from Columbia
23 University, worked in the music program of the Jacksonville public
24 school system, and was the first African American to win the EVE
25 Award in Fine Arts; and

26 **WHEREAS,** during the past four years, 2018-2022, under the
27 International Program theme Exemplifying Excellence Through
28 Sustainable Service, Gamma Rho Omega has implemented its Signature
29 Program, #CAPSM and numerous initiatives along with five program
30 targets that included HBCU support, health and wellness, the arts,
31 and economic well-being and seven local Community Impact Days; and

1 **WHEREAS,** as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Gamma Rho Omega
2 Chapter celebrates its 80th Anniversary, its members can reflect with
3 considerable pride on the many outstanding, significant contributions
4 the Chapter has made in service projects in Jacksonville and its
5 continuing efforts to serve humanity, and we take this opportunity
6 to honor and commend Gamma Rho Omega Chapter for that great work; now
7 therefore

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

9 **Section 1.** The City Council does hereby honor and commend
10 the Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
11 Incorporated on the occasion of its 80th anniversary and wishes the
12 Chapter continued successes in the years ahead.

13 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
14 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
15 without the Mayor's signature.

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17 Form Approved:

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19 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

20 Office of General Counsel

21 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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