

Introduced by Council President Newby and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Salem, Becton, Dennis, Diamond, DeFoor, Priestly Jackson, Howland & Morgan:

RESOLUTION 2022-468-A

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE WORK OF
KEVIN T. GAY AS THE CEO AND FOUNDER OF OPERATION
NEW HOPE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Kevin T. Gay is a native of Jacksonville and a graduate of the University of Florida. He is the CEO and Founder of Operation New Hope; he has many years of entrepreneurial experience and a deep commitment to revitalizing urban neighborhoods. He combines this with his strong faith and a special interest in helping the underserved in communities who seek a way out of the cycle of addiction, poverty, and incarceration; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Gay is a founding member of Reconcile Jacksonville, which has been responsible for partnering with over 40 black and white churches since 1992. In 2003, the City of Jacksonville nominated Mr. Gay for a national award through Neighborhoods USA and on May 22,

1 2003 he and nine others from around the country received the
2 prestigious Neighborhoods USA Notables Award. Mr. Gay served on
3 President-Elect Barack Obama's Advisory Council for the White House
4 Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships during the
5 transition in 2009 and 2010. He also served on the transition teams
6 for Jacksonville Mayor's Alvin Brown in 2011 and on Mayor Lenny
7 Curry's in 2015; and

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

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

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

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.

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26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Lawsikia J. Hodges

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Richard Distel, City Council Research

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