

1 Introduced by Council Member Morgan and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Newby, Dennis, Diamond, Priestly Jackson, Howland & Ferraro:

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6 **RESOLUTION 2022-472-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE GAMMA
8 RHO OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY,
9 INCORPORATED ON THE OCCASION OF THE 80TH
10 ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING; PROVIDING AN
11 EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **WHEREAS,** Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha,
14 Incorporated was chartered in Jacksonville on June 23, 1942 when ten
15 college-educated, enterprising, dedicated and civic-minded young
16 women who had become members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on
17 various college campuses became the Chapter's charter members; and

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

29 **WHEREAS,** for 80 years, Gamma Rho Omega Chapter has provided
30 scholarships for young women seeking to further their education,
31 promoted leadership development in the Chapter and the community,

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

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

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

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

28 **WHEREAS,** during the past four years, 2018-2022, under the
29 International Program theme Exemplifying Excellence Through
30 Sustainable Service, Gamma Rho Omega has implemented its Signature
31 Program, #CAPSM and numerous initiatives along with five program

1 targets that included HBCU support, health and wellness, the arts,
2 and economic well-being and seven local Community Impact Days; and

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

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

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

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

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19 Form Approved:

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21 _____ /s/ Lawsikia J. Hodges

22 Office of General Counsel

23 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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