

1 Introduced by Council Member Morgan:
2
3

4 **RESOLUTION 2022-604**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
6 AND LEGACY OF JOURNALIST, CIVIC ACTIVIST AND
7 PEACEMAKER EDWARD BRYANT ROLLINS, JR.; PROVIDING
8 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Edward "Bryant" Rollins, Jr., a native of the Roxbury
11 neighborhood of Boston, graduated from Boston's English High School
12 and earned his bachelor's degree from Northeastern University; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Rollins first earned notoriety as a journalist. He
14 worked at the Boston Globe and the New York Times before founding the
15 Bay State Banner, a paper focused on the African American experience.
16 He later edited the New York Amsterdam News, one of the nation's
17 premier Black newspapers; and

18 **WHEREAS**, his experiences covering the civil rights movement of
19 the 1960s as a journalist led to a second career as an advocate for
20 civil rights and a greater understanding and appreciation of diversity
21 and equity of all kinds throughout society. He and his wife Shirley
22 founded a consulting firm, StetsonRollins Consulting, focused on
23 diversity and equity training for large corporations, colleges,
24 government agencies and nonprofits, and spent decades helping
25 organizations break down barriers of race, gender, religion, age and
26 other human and cultural differences; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Bryant and Shirley Rollins' work for understanding,
28 equity and justice in Jacksonville is legendary. They led an
29 initiative in the 1990s to host Study Circles conversations about
30 race across the city and they facilitated the St. Johns Cathedral's
31 Truth and Reconciliation Community, which brought Archbishop Desmond

1 Tutu to Jacksonville. He served on a number of community boards,
2 including the Jax Chamber, the Jacksonville Civic Council and JCCI,
3 and was among the first Blacks admitted to the Civic Council's
4 predecessor, the Non-Group; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Rollins was widely recognized as a distinguished
6 writer. He published two novels, co-authored entertainer Cab
7 Calloway's autobiography, and co-scripted an award-winning off-
8 Broadway play. He also worked with the Ford Foundation, administering
9 a program for minority journalists at the Columbia University Graduate
10 School of Journalism, and at the time of his recent death was just
11 completing his memoir, *The Slave in My Mirror*; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the City Council is tremendously saddened to learn of
13 the passing of Bryant Rollins and wishes to commemorate his lifetime
14 of outstanding achievement; now therefore

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

16 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
17 the life and countless accomplishments of Edward Bryant Rollins, Jr.
18 in the fields of journalism, civic activism, and diversity and equity
19 training. Bryant Rollins devoted his life to increasing
20 understanding, tolerance, and acceptance among people of all races,
21 religions, social strata, and beliefs, and spent the last several
22 decades of his amazing life working to make Jacksonville a more
23 accepting and inclusive city for all its residents. His contributions
24 to society are innumerable and he will be long and gratefully
25 remembered by all who had the good fortune to know him.

26 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
27 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
28 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

2

3 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

6 GC-#1510014-v1-Morgan_-_Bryant_Rollins_Condo_Reso.docx