

1 Introduced by Council Member Morgan and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Boylan, Priestly Jackson, Newby, Pittman & Becton:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2022-604-A**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
29 without the Mayor's signature.  
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1 Form Approved:

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3           /s/ Paige H. Johnston          

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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