

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci and J. Carlucci:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-215**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING HARRELL  
6 THOMAS ON HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS TENNIS  
7 FACILITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE;  
8 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;  
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Harrell Thomas is a Jacksonville native who first  
12 picked up a tennis racket at the age of 15, played tennis for Andrew  
13 Jackson High School, and Jacksonville University, where he attended;  
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Thomas was hired as a tennis professional by  
16 Hendricks Avenue Tennis Center (Southside Park) in 1986 and has worked  
17 for nearly forty years in the Jacksonville tennis community; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Harrell Thomas has had tremendous impact on the youth  
19 of Jacksonville through his work overseeing youth tennis programs  
20 throughout his years of service, with his former students becoming  
21 tennis professionals, Division I college athletes, and nurses; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Department appointed Mr.  
23 Thomas as the Tennis Facility Manager in 2014, overseeing the  
24 day-to-day operations of three City-owned tennis facilities, and one  
25 year later in 2015, Mr. Thomas represented the City of Jacksonville  
26 in New York City to receive the United States Tennis Association's  
27 Facility of the Year Award; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Harrell Thomas has stayed involved in the teaching  
29 side of the tennis community despite his growing administrative  
30 responsibilities; and

31 **WHEREAS**, under Mr. Thomas' leadership, the Jacksonville tennis

1 community has strengthened its grassroots efforts to promote tennis  
2 to the African American community through connecting with schools,  
3 historically black colleges, and other non-profit organizations; and

4 **WHEREAS,** the United States Tennis Association has recognized  
5 Harrell Thomas as a member of the Black community who has used his  
6 talents and dedication to develop the game of tennis at the grassroots  
7 level; now therefore

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

9 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and congratulates  
10 Harrell Thomas for his contributions to the Jacksonville tennis  
11 community and commends him for his years of service to the City of  
12 Jacksonville. Mr. Thomas' work with the youth of Jacksonville,  
13 especially those in the African American community, has had  
14 immeasurable impact in promoting the game of tennis and instilling  
15 the values of discipline, dedication, and community.

16 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**  
17 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon introduction  
18 is requested so that Harrell Thomas can be presented this Resolution  
19 before his retirement, which will be effective April 5, 2024.

20 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
22 without the Mayor's signature.

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24 Form Approved:

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26 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Eamon Webb, City Council Research

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