

1 Introduced by Council Member Priestly Jackson and Co-Sponsored by
2 Council Members Morgan, Pittman, Becton, Bowman, Boylan, Carlucci,
3 Cumber, DeFoor, Dennis, Diamond, Ferraro, Freeman, R. Gaffney,
4 Hazouri, Newby, Salem, White and Wilson:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2020-195-A**

8 A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AND HONORING THE MANY
9 YEARS OF SERVICE OF JUDGE PAULINE M. DRAKE
10 UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE FOURTH JUDICIAL
11 CIRCUIT COUNTY COURT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
12 DATE.
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake was appointed to the county
15 bench in 1998 by the late Governor Lawton Chiles to fill the
16 unexpired term of Judge June Blackburn. Judge Drake was a county
17 court judge who heard matters involving civil, criminal, small
18 claims and traffic court cases involving injuries; and

19 **WHEREAS**, this appointment was historical for this area because
20 in doing so Judge Drake became the first African American female
21 judge appointed to the bench in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which
22 encompasses Duval, Clay and Nassau County; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Judge Drake received her Bachelor of Science Degree
24 in Secondary Education from Tuskegee University in 1974, a Master's
25 Degree in Special Education from the University of Alabama in 1978
26 and a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Florida in
27 1984; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake was admitted to the Florida Bar
29 in 1986. Her previous experience includes Assistant State
30 Attorney, Regional Legal Advisor for the Florida Department of Law

1 Enforcement and private practice. She was also a certified
2 Federal, Circuit, Family and County Court Mediator; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake has always been involved with
4 the County Court Conference of Judges. She currently serves as
5 Vice-Chair of the Education Committee, the Professionalism
6 Committee and has actively been involved with professionalism in
7 the Florida Bar and Jacksonville Bar Association. Judge Drake
8 actively participates in Justice Teaching in the public school
9 system and volunteers with various civil organizations; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake has dedicated herself to local
11 organizations that focus on making a difference in the community.
12 Judge Drake currently volunteers as a Board Member for the
13 Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition and the James Coon Black
14 History Brain Brawl. Judge Drake has previously volunteered with
15 the Peer Mediation Volunteer at Fort Caroline Elementary School,
16 National Council of Negro Women, Inc., the Azalea Project, Girl
17 Scouts of America, Kid's College at Edward Water's College in
18 Jacksonville and she is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta, a
19 public service sorority. Judge Drake is also a member of The Bethel
20 Church, formerly known as Bethel Baptist Institutional Church; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Judge Pauline M. Drake has dedicated her life to
22 public service and the value of education. The inspiration she had
23 from her teachers led Judge Drake back to the classroom on a
24 regular basis to visit elementary schools in underserved
25 neighborhoods. Judge Drake has been a mentor to young lawyers and
26 has had an extraordinary impact on Duval County and has dedicated
27 her time to create a stronger community; now therefore

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

29 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville celebrates and honors
30 Judge Pauline M. Drake for her trailblazing work as the first
31 African American female judge in the Fourth Judicial Circuit and

1 for her many years of service as a Duval County Court judge and
2 wishes her all the best in her retirement.

3 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
4 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
5 without the Mayor's signature.

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7 Form Approved:

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9 /s/ Paige Hobbs Johnston

10 Office of General Counsel

11 Legislation Prepared By: Richard Distel, City Council Research

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