

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Priestly Jackson, Dennis, DeFoor, Carlucci, Newby, Boylan,  
3 Becton, Salem and Bowman:  
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6 **RESOLUTION 2020-442**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING ASSISTANT  
8 CHIEF GREGORY BURTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS  
9 RETIREMENT AS A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT FOR  
10 TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WITH THE JACKSONVILLE  
11 SHERIFF'S OFFICE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Assistant Chief Gregory Burton, a native of  
14 Shreveport, Louisiana, was born to the late Mr. Frank Burton and  
15 Mrs. Louise Burton. He relocated to Jacksonville, Florida in 1989.  
16 In 1994, he earned a Police and Correction State Certification from  
17 Florida State College of Jacksonville. He extended his educational  
18 profile with a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Edward  
19 Waters College in 2004 and a Master's in Education from  
20 Jacksonville University in 2011. Greg Burton is married to his  
21 soulmate and best friend Assistant Chief Lakesha Burton, and they  
22 are the proud parents of five children; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Gregory Burton proudly served as a commissioned 2nd  
24 Lieutenant in the United States Army. Shortly after an honorable  
25 discharge, Mr. Burton was hired, in 1994, as a patrol officer with  
26 the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. His stellar twenty-five-year  
27 career with JSO is evident in his ability to move through the  
28 ranks. He was a Sergeant from 2001-2005; Lieutenant from 2005-2007;  
29 Assistant Chief, Logistics and General Support Services from 2005-  
30 2007; Division Chief, Police Services Division from 2008-2015; and  
31 the Assistant Chief/Patrol Zone 6 Commander from 2015 until his

1 retirement. Asst. Chief Burton's priority was improving community  
2 engagement. He was dedicated to listening to and interacting with  
3 residents to partner with JSO to keep their communities safe. To  
4 talk to residents, he would physically go where they were, be it  
5 walking down the sidewalks of the neighborhood or riding JTA for  
6 hours. Asst. Chief Greg Burton worked hard every day towards  
7 building trust and relationships among citizens and his fellow  
8 officers. He is a man of humility, courage, and integrity with a  
9 heart of gold. He goes out of his way to empower and encourage  
10 others to stay positive and work hard. In addition to all the  
11 attributes that make Greg Burton an amazing person, he has a gentle  
12 and fun-spirited side that shows up from time to time. JSO posted a  
13 video of Asst. Chief Burton singing and dancing to the Jackson 5's  
14 song, *I Want You Back*. He performed his rendition of the song  
15 during a roll call. He wanted to get his officers to smile and stay  
16 positive considering the pending arrival of Hurricane Irma. This is  
17 just one of the many little actions that earned Asst. Chief Burton  
18 the respect and appreciation of others; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Asst. Chief Burton wholeheartedly attributes all his  
20 personal and professional accomplishments to his faith and  
21 spiritual life. More importantly, he acknowledges being a walking  
22 blessing after surviving cancer, three strokes, and open-heart  
23 surgery. Greg Burton is a man of faith and strength. He is an  
24 officer. He is a friend that seeks nothing more than to help others  
25 any way he can. Asst. Chief Burton attends Hopewell Church under  
26 the leadership of Dr. Gary L. Williams, Sr., and serves as a board  
27 member. His lengthy organizational affiliations and community  
28 involvement include, but not limited to: member, Alpha Phi Alpha  
29 Fraternity, Inc.; Board Member, Read USA; past board president,  
30 Jacksonville Brotherhood of Police Officers; Cub Scouts-Scout  
31 Master, Boy Scouts of America; Leadership Jacksonville, Class of

1 2011; Mentor, Take Stock in Children Mentor - Andrew Jackson High  
2 School; Volunteer Coach, YMCA; and National Organization of Black  
3 Law Enforcement Executives (N.O.B.L.E.). He is proud of the work  
4 completed through the community initiatives and commented, "My most  
5 pleasurable initiatives have been serving the community and  
6 building partnerships with the various businesses and individuals,  
7 working with children." Two of the initiatives were the Faith Group  
8 Meetings that engage almost 90 churches in Zone 6, and the Day Care  
9 Initiative which conducts the Officer Friendly program to the 60  
10 daycare facilities in Zone 6; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Asst. Chief Gregory Burton's work is a testament of  
12 his unwavering faith and his commitment to serve for the greater  
13 good of all. He is well-respected and greatly admired by his co-  
14 workers, friends, and the community. His leadership is a legacy of  
15 faith, trust, and honor; now therefore

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

17 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and  
18 commends Assistant Chief Gregory Burton on his retirement after 26  
19 years of service with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. Assistant  
20 Chief Gregory Burton's exemplary service will impact this City for  
21 decades to come because he made a difference in the lives he  
22 served. The Council extends its best wishes as he prepares for the  
23 next phase in his personal and professional journey.

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

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28 Form Approved:

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30 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

31 Office of General Counsel

1 Legislation Prepared By: Yvonne P. Mitchell, City Council Research

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