

1 Introduced by Council Member Morgan & Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Pittman, Carlucci, Becton, Salem and Bowman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2020-464-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE
7 LIFE OF MILDRED ALENE MURRELL; PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Mildred "Alene" McNeil Murrell, a native of
11 Jacksonville, was born on July 27, 1917 to the late J.W. McNeil and
12 Mary Coleman. She was raised in the historical Spring Park area
13 located south of the St. Johns River. Mildred McNeil was an
14 academic scholar excelling in English composition and art. Upon
15 graduation from the local school, she later attended Florida
16 Agricultural Mechanical University (FAMU), majoring in home
17 economics. Mildred affectionately referred to as Alene, was married
18 to her life partner the late Quincy Murrell for 49 years before his
19 passing. Together the couple raised seven children; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Murrell worked as a caterer and home decorator
21 for many years until she began teaching home economics in the Adult
22 Studies Department at Florida Community College of Jacksonville
23 (FCCJ). In 1989, she retired after nineteen years of successful
24 teaching. Alene Murrell never lost her passion for English
25 composition, so with a little encouragement of friends and family,
26 she resumed writing poetry and short stories, both real and
27 fiction. While writing, Mrs. Murrell made time to work in the
28 community. She served and volunteered in a wide variety of civic,
29 religious, and social activities; and chaired many offices within
30 those organizations. Alene Murrell, the church mother, was an
31 active and life-long member of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist

1 Church. She was involved with Choir I-II, Baptist Young Peoples
2 Union (BYPU), Baptist Training Union (BTU), and served as a Sunday
3 school teacher, Youth Director, and Vacation Bible School Director;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Mildred (Alene) McNeil Murrell authored two
6 exciting and critically acclaimed books: *Zora Neale Hurston In and*
7 *Around Jacksonville, FL in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s*; and
8 *Depression Recipes: Zora Neale Hurston's Favorite Dishes*. Alene
9 Murrell's faith, service to others, and dedication to her family
10 and church were her greatest joys in life; now therefore

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

12 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
13 commemorates the life and mourns the passing of Mrs. Mildred
14 "Alene" McNeil Murrell and extends to her family and many friends
15 its most profound condolences. She was loved, appreciated, and well
16 respected, and all who knew her will keenly feel her absence.

17 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
18 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
19 without the Mayor's signature.

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21 Form Approved:

22
23 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

24 Office of General Counsel

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

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