

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

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5 **RESOLUTION 2021-297-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE
7 LIFE OF WILLIAM JACOB EASTON; PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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10 **WHEREAS**, William Jacob Easton, a native of Jacksonville,
11 Florida, was born on April 10, 1999. The only child of his beloved
12 parents James H. Easton, Jr., and Vonchrusa Easton, William,
13 affectionately called "Will", was a young man of strength,
14 integrity, and positivity. He touched and enriched the lives of
15 every person he met because he knew no strangers; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Will attended local public schools and was an elite
17 Trojan student-athlete and graduate of the Jean Ribault Senior High
18 School. He loved sports and found his niche in basketball. He
19 dominated the courts with his energy and skill. The opposing team
20 often underestimated Will's tenacity and heart because of his size,
21 but they would quickly find out that Will was a beast. He was known
22 for his sportsmanship, competitiveness, and defense tactics. His
23 small stature was never a limitation on the court because he would
24 guard the opponent's top scorer and effortlessly rise to the
25 occasion and dunk on players. Will was highlighted on ESPN.com in
26 2016 for pulling off spectacular dunks while standing at 5-foot-2.
27 William was also talented in track and field and was awarded a
28 scholarship to attend Morris College in Sumter, SC. After a couple
29 of years, Will accepted a scholarship to attend Wilberforce
30 University in Wilberforce, OH, which allowed him to live his dream
31 to play collegiate basketball finally; and

1 **WHEREAS,** as a senior student-athlete at Wilberforce
2 University, William Jacob Easton maintained a 3.5-grade point
3 average, earned the Academic All-Conference honors for the 2019-
4 2020 season, and was scheduled to receive his degree in Sports
5 Medicine in May. His leadership and achievements afforded him the
6 honor of being initiated into the Delta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi
7 Fraternity, Inc., in Spring 2020. Will had the same passion off-
8 court for service and giving back to the community. He volunteered
9 countless hours with Clara White Mission and Duval Teacher's
10 United. Will was admired, loved, and respected by all. His
11 personality, work ethic, and genuineness are the essence of how
12 Will was raised, how Will treated others, and how Will lived.
13 Remembrance in life's passing is the most accurate form of love one
14 can give, for a memory never dies and love lives forever in the
15 heart of another; 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 commemorates the gift of love and joy that William Jacob Easton
19 freely extended to everyone within his reach and extends to his
20 beloved parents, family, and many friends its most profound
21 condolences. He was an amazing man, and although his physical
22 presence will be keenly missed, William Jacob Easton will forever
23 be present in the hearts and minds of everyone that knew him.

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.

27 Form Approved:

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29 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

30 Office of General Counsel

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

