

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Newby, Pittman, Boylan,
2 Salem:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2021-554**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING
7 EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE ON ACHIEVING THE STATUS
8 OF A UNIVERSITY WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS
9 NEW MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM;
10 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Edward Waters College (Edward Waters) was founded in
13 1866 after the conclusion of the Civil War by the African Methodist
14 Episcopal Church as Brown Theological Institute to educate the
15 newly-freed, formerly enslaved people of Jacksonville, and
16 underwent much change and growth before becoming Edward Waters
17 College in 1892, named for the third Bishop of the AME church. It
18 is the oldest Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in
19 the state of Florida; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the campus of Edward Waters was destroyed in
21 Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901 and rebuilt in its current
22 location on New Kings Road shortly thereafter. The college was
23 accredited as a junior college in 1955, reinstated a four-year
24 curriculum in 1960, and was fully accredited by the Southern
25 Association of Colleges and Schools as a bachelor's degree-granting
26 institution in 1979; and

27 **WHEREAS**, throughout its more than century-and-a-half history,
28 Edward Waters has been a beacon of opportunity for Jacksonville's
29 and Florida's young people who seek an education and brighter
30 prospects for the future. It has especially accommodated students
31 from challenging backgrounds and circumstances, opening wide its

1 doors and offering opportunities to first-generation college
2 attendees, students in difficult financial circumstances, and those
3 facing other barriers to the achievement of their dreams of higher
4 education. The college's faith in these students has been rewarded
5 by generations of graduates who have used their EWC educations to
6 lead productive, compassionate, involved lives and serve as
7 outstanding members of the community; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in recent decades, under the leadership of visionary
9 presidents, including Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, Dr. Claudette Williams,
10 alumnus and former Jacksonville Sheriff Nathaniel Glover, and
11 current dynamic President Dr. Zachary Faison, Jr., Edward Waters
12 has seen an era of growth and expansion throughout its campus
13 facilities and programmatic offerings. It has partnered with the
14 City of Jacksonville to provide facilities and services targeted to
15 the needs of surrounding neighborhoods, has served as a rallying
16 point for broader community enrichment, and recently announced the
17 creation of the A. Philip Randolph Institute for Law, Race, Social
18 Justice and Economic Policy in collaboration with the Jessie Ball
19 duPont Fund, to provide opportunities for students, scholars,
20 practitioners and community members as ideas related to race,
21 law/criminal justice, and socioeconomic policy matters are examined
22 through research, lectures, symposia and scholarship; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in June of 2021, Edward Waters received accreditation
24 for and inaugurated its new Master of Business Administration
25 program, thereby elevating the institution to the status of a
26 university offering graduate degrees, an achievement that further
27 solidifies and extends its reputation as one of Jacksonville's
28 outstanding institutions of higher education; now therefore

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

30 **Section 1.** The City hereby honors and congratulates
31 Edward Waters University (EWU) on achieving the status of a

1 university with the inauguration of its new master's degree program
2 in business administration, and extends its best wishes for
3 continued growth and development of programs, initiatives and
4 degrees designed to meet the ever-changing conditions of the
5 present day. EWU has been a bedrock of Jacksonville's educational
6 landscape for 155 years, and is an invaluable asset to the city and
7 its citizens.

8 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
9 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
10 without the Mayor's signature.

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12 Form Approved:

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14 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

15 Office of General Counsel

16 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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