

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-610**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
6 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FOOTBALL PLAYER AND COACH
7 LIN-J SHELL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
8

9 **WHEREAS**, a native of Orlando, Florida, Lin-J Shell graduated
10 from Edgewater High School and was recruited to play football at
11 Jacksonville University, where, as a defensive back, he set JU Dolphin
12 records for interceptions and punt return yardage and was twice named
13 to the Pioneer Football League All-Conference Team. He was inducted
14 into the JU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013; and

15 **WHEREAS**, after graduating from JU, Mr. Shell spent more than a
16 decade playing professionally in the Arena League and the Canadian
17 Football League, where he was twice named to the All-Star Team while
18 playing with the Toronto Argonauts and earned a championship ring
19 with the Calgary Stampeders, helping the team win the CFL's Grey Cup
20 in 2014; and

21 **WHEREAS**, following his professional football career, Lin-J Shell
22 returned to Jacksonville to become a high school teacher and football
23 coach at Ribault High School, where he unexpectedly was tapped to be
24 the interim head coach just before the start of the 2019 season, and
25 most recently at Andrew Jackson High School; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Shell, formerly the Dean of Boys at Ribault High
27 School, was credited with averting a potential tragedy at the school
28 in 2018 when he witnessed a woman trespassing on the campus carrying
29 a gun and attempting to intervene in a fight among students in the
30 gymnasium. Mr. Shell engaged the woman, escorted her out of the
31 building and away from the students, and alerted a nearby school

1 resource officer who took the woman into custody without any shots
2 being fired; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Lin-J Shell was well known as a mentor, leader and
4 high-energy motivator who touched the lives of hundreds of students
5 during his relatively brief teaching and coaching career with his
6 care, compassion, and desire to help each young person to become the
7 best that he or she could be. His death at the age of 39 has been a
8 tremendous shock to the community and is a great loss of a young and
9 talented leader; now therefore

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

11 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
12 the life and accomplishments of football player, coach, teacher and
13 mentor Lin-J Shell, and extends its deepest condolences to his family
14 and friends, to the Ribault High School community, and to all who
15 were positively influenced by his life. His example of positivity,
16 boundless energy, and concern for others should serve as an example
17 to everyone to continue the good work his life represented.

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

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22 Form Approved:

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24 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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