

Senate Resolution 576

By: Senators Goodman of the 8th, Sims of the 12th, Watson of the 11th, Summers of the 13th, Jones II of the 22nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Nicholas “Big Nick” Harden for his outstanding service,
2 leadership, and contributions to the City of Valdosta and the State of Georgia; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Nicholas “Big Nick” Harden has long demonstrated an unwavering
5 commitment to the citizens of Valdosta, Georgia, through his dedication to public service,
6 community empowerment, and humanitarian relief efforts; and

7 WHEREAS, during the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Idalia in 2023, Mr. Harden
8 mobilized resources, volunteers, and community partnerships to feed more than 40,000
9 citizens, with support from the American Red Cross, ensuring that families in need were
10 cared for in one of the city’s most difficult times; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2024, when Hurricane Helene struck, Mr. Harden once again rose to the
12 occasion, providing over 2,000 hot meals to affected residents with the help of friends and
13 community members, embodying the true spirit of compassion and service; and

14 WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of disaster readiness, Mr. Harden hosted an
15 Emergency Preparedness Town Hall to educate citizens on proactive measures and
16 community resilience, helping Valdosta become better prepared for future emergencies; and

17 WHEREAS, as a dedicated City Councilman, Mr. Harden has championed civic engagement,
18 government transparency, and voter participation, inspiring many residents—especially those
19 historically disengaged—to become more involved in local governance; and

20 WHEREAS, through his beloved establishment, Big Nick’s Juke Joint, he has enriched
21 Valdosta’s culinary and cultural landscape, creating a space that unites people across
22 backgrounds through exceptional food, music, and fellowship while uplifting local and
23 regional artists and musicians; and

24 WHEREAS, as a Founding Fifty Member of the Southern Georgia Black Chambers, Mr.
25 Harden has worked tirelessly to support economic empowerment and entrepreneurship,
26 particularly among young and emerging business owners; and

27 WHEREAS, through his mentorship in the SGBC CTAE Partnership with Valdosta High
28 School, he continues to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders, offering
29 guidance, encouragement, and opportunities for professional growth; and

30 WHEREAS, as a business owner, Mr. Harden provides valuable jobs in the community,
31 paying livable wages and promoting upward mobility among his employees, exemplifying
32 ethical leadership and corporate responsibility; and

33 WHEREAS, prior to his civic and entrepreneurial accomplishments, Mr. Harden brought joy
34 to countless citizens as a radio DJ, sharing music, humor, and connection across the
35 airwaves; and

36 WHEREAS, through his kindness, warmth, and unwavering commitment to community,
37 Nicholas “Big Nick” Harden has become a beloved leader, mentor, and hometown hero,
38 making Valdosta a stronger, more connected, and more compassionate city.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
40 recognize and commend Nicholas “Big Nick” Harden for his exceptional leadership,
41 humanitarian spirit, and outstanding service to the citizens of Valdosta and the State of
42 Georgia, and extend their heartfelt best wishes for his continued success and happiness.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
44 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Nicholas “Big
45 Nick” Harden.