

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Freeman, Salem, Clark-Murray, Pittman, Gay, Johnson, White
3 and Miller:

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6 **RESOLUTION 2023-476-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING ROBERT
8 PHILLIPS ON MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF DEDICATED
9 SERVICE IN THE DUVAL COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF
10 ELECTIONS OFFICE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
11 RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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13 **WHEREAS,** Robert Phillips, a Jacksonville native, graduated from
14 Bishop Kenny High School and attended Florida State College at
15 Jacksonville before beginning his career in the information
16 technology field; and

17 **WHEREAS,** in 1991, Mr. Phillips was hired by Duval County
18 Supervisor of Elections Tommie Bell and began a long and distinguished
19 career managing Jacksonville's elections. During his tenure he has
20 served under five Supervisors of Elections, in every conceivable
21 capacity within the office; gaining invaluable experience and
22 steadily rising through the ranks of the office; and

23 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Phillips currently holds the position of Chief
24 Elections Officer and Deputy Supervisor of Elections and is
25 responsible for overseeing the smooth functioning of all aspects of
26 election operations, from recruiting and training poll workers to
27 locating and leasing polling precincts and early voting sites to
28 ballot layout to election day operations; and

29 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Phillips is a Master Florida Certified Election
30 Professional and from Auburn University he obtained a national
31 certification as a Certified Elections and Registration

1 Administrator. He is recognized as an expert election resource for
2 the entire state of Florida with an encyclopedic knowledge of election
3 laws and procedures and a unique ability to convey that knowledge
4 in an easily understandable way with patience and good humor; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Phillips has been involved in the management of
6 over 100 elections in his 32 years in the Duval County Supervisor of
7 Elections Office, ranging from the ordinary (the vast majority), to
8 an unusual tie vote for a City Council seat in Neptune Beach (settled
9 by 3 stages of random chance events), to the infamous Bush v. Gore
10 presidential election in 2000. Throughout every circumstance, Mr.
11 Phillips performed his duties and represented the Duval County
12 Supervisor of Elections Office with professionalism and unquestioned
13 credibility, giving the voting public every confidence that the city's
14 elections have been run with integrity, efficiency and fairness; and

15 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Phillips has recently announced his retirement
16 after a long and successful career, and his knowledge,
17 professionalism, wise counsel and friendship will be greatly missed;
18 now therefore

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

20 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
21 Robert Phillips on his more than three decades of outstanding service
22 in the office of the Duval County Supervisor of Elections on the
23 occasion of his retirement and extends its best wishes for his future
24 endeavors. He has served the City and citizens of Jacksonville
25 extremely well during his career and leaves an invaluable legacy of
26 public trust and confidence in the operation of Jacksonville's
27 electoral system.

28 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
29 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
30 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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