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Introduced by Council Members Boylan, Johnson, Howland, Pittman, Salem, Gay, J. Carlucci, Diamond, Freeman, Carlucci, Amaro and Clark-Murray:

RESOLUTION 2024-263

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL LAWSIKIA HODGES ON OUTSTANDING CAREER WITH THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Lawsikia Hodges earned her bachelor's degree with honors in political science from the University of North Florida and her law degree with honors from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she was a member of the Moot Court Team, served as an intern for the United States House of Representatives, and was a Legal Research and Writing Professor's Assistant; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodges began her legal career as a business law associate at Foley & Lardner LLP in Jacksonville in the Real Estate and Finance Practice Group and Business Law Department for 5 years before joining the City's Office of General Counsel in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Lawsikia Hodges has practiced in a wide variety of areas in the General Counsel's Office, including real estate and finance transactions, government procurement, ordinances, economic incentives and community redevelopment, federal and local grants, sunshine law, public records, and ethics; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodges has served as lead counsel to various independent authorities and City boards and commissions, including the Jacksonville Port Authority, Jacksonville Electric Authority, Jacksonville Housing Authority, Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority, Police and Fire Pension Board of Trustees, Downtown

Investment Authority, Tourist Development Council, Public Service Grant Council, Kids Hope Alliance, and Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Commission; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodges has provided invaluable counsel to the City Council, its members, and committees during her sixteen-year career with the Office of General Counsel, offering expertise, insight, and skill in understanding and drafting legislation on a wide variety of policy issues. She has particularly excelled in crafting legislation on major policy issues, including substantial amendments to the JEA Charter and a major re-write of the City's Procurement Code; and

WHEREAS, Lawsikia Hodges is very active in the legal profession with memberships in several bar associations and very involved in lending her expertise and time to a variety of community organizations, including current or previous membership on the board of the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, WJCT, the PACE Center for Girls and the Jacksonville Chapter of Young Catholic Professionals; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodges has announced her intention to leave the General Counsel's Office for a new position and the City Council wishes to express its thanks for all her contributions during her career with the Office of General Counsel; now therefore

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

Section 1. The City Council hereby honors and congratulates Deputy General Counsel Lawsikia Hodges on her outstanding career in the Office of General Counsel and thanks her for her years of dedicated and effective service to the City and its citizens. The Council is especially grateful for her wise counsel and invaluable assistance to the City Council and its members over the years and extends its best wishes for success and happiness in her future endeavors.

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

Form Approved:

/s/ Carla A. Lopera

Office of General Counsel

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Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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