

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Salem and Amaro:

3
4
5 **RESOLUTION 2024-301-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
7 AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORMER ASSISTANT
8 COUNCIL AUDITOR RICHARD "RICK" CORAM; PROVIDING
9 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10
11 **WHEREAS,** Richard "Rick" Coram, a native of Parkersburg, West
12 Virginia, served several years in the U.S. Navy and the Naval
13 Reserves, earned his A.A. degree in business from Florida Junior
14 College at Jacksonville and earned his bachelor's degree in accounting
15 from the University of South Florida; and

16 **WHEREAS,** in 1970 Mr. Coram was hired as a staff auditor for
17 the Council Auditor's Office by Council Auditor Gene McLeod in the
18 recently created consolidated city government. He earned his CPA
19 certification in 1973 and in 1977 was promoted to the position of
20 Assistant Council Auditor, a position he held for 21 years until his
21 retirement in 1998; and

22 **WHEREAS,** during his two decades as Assistant Council Auditor,
23 Rick Coram was renowned for his encyclopedic knowledge of City
24 finances, his insightful analysis of complex issues, his ability to
25 ask the right question at the right time to get to the heart of an
26 issue, and his impressive ability to explain the most complicated
27 financial concepts and accounting principles to the council members
28 for whom he worked. By doing so he made himself absolutely
29 indispensable to the City Council, and a highly trusted and
30 unimpeachable advisor to generations of council members; and

31 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Coram was widely respected in the governmental

1 accounting profession, holding memberships in the American Institute
2 of CPAs, the Florida Institute of CPAs, and the Government Finance
3 Officers Association of the United States and Canada. He was elected
4 by his peers as President of the Florida Government Finance Officers
5 Association for 1988-89 and received that organization's first
6 Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021; and

7 **WHEREAS**, following his retirement, Rick Coram continued his
8 service with 3 terms on the General Employees Pension Fund Board of
9 Trustees from 1998 to 2010. A deeply devoted family man, he also
10 spent his time seeing to the care and happiness of his family and
11 participated in his favorite hobby of tennis, often playing with his
12 long-time friend and colleague, former Council Auditor Bob Johnson;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Council has learned with regret of the passing of
15 Mr. Coram and desires to honor his contributions to the City
16 government and to the accounting and government finance professions
17 more broadly; now therefore

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

19 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
20 the life and civic contributions of former Assistant Council Auditor
21 Richard "Rick" Coram on the occasion of his passing and extends to
22 his family, friends and professional colleagues the Council's sincere
23 condolences. Mr. Coram was a consummate professional in his dealings
24 with the City Council, dispensing sound advice and offering the
25 benefit of his vast expertise while also being a good and valued
26 friend to hundreds of council members across the decades. His
27 contributions will be long and gratefully remembered by all who had
28 the good fortune to know and work with him.

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

1 Form Approved:

2

3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

6 GC-#1625240-v1-2024-301-A.docx