

1 Introduced by Council Members Freeman and Howland and Co-Sponsored
2 by Council Members Miller, Lahnen, Johnson, Boylan, Clark-Murray,
3 White, Peluso, Pittman and Amaro:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2025-42-A**

7 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING SHERIFF T.K. WATERS AND
8 THE ENTIRE JACKSONVILLE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR
9 THEIR ROLE IN DECREASING THE MURDER RATE IN OUR
10 CITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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12 **WHEREAS,** since consolidation in 1968, the Jacksonville
13 Sheriff's Office ("JSO") has served as the law enforcement agency for
14 the City of Jacksonville/Duval County, charged with maintaining
15 public safety for a population that has grown to more than one million
16 residents; and

17 **WHEREAS,** in recent years, Jacksonville has faced challenges in
18 combating violent crime, and has sometimes been referred to as the
19 "murder capital of Florida"; and

20 **WHEREAS,** according to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office crime
21 data, there were 135 murders in Jacksonville in 2022, and 122 in
22 2023; and

23 **WHEREAS,** in 2024, the number of murders in Jacksonville fell
24 drastically to 59, the lowest level recorded since 1995, representing
25 not only a historic achievement but also a reduction that far outpaced
26 national trends; and

27 **WHEREAS,** this reduction can largely be attributed to the
28 hard-working men and women of JSO and their partner agencies, the
29 implementation of Sheriff T.K. Waters' Violence Reduction Strategy,
30 and the steadfast support and cooperation of the citizens of
31 Jacksonville; now therefore

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

2 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends Sheriff
3 T.K. Waters and the entire Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for
4 proactively implementing policies and programs to decrease the murder
5 rate in our city. The Jacksonville City Council appreciates the
6 efforts of specialized enforcement units, and JSO's overall
7 commitment to strengthening public trust through transparency and
8 accountability.

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

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13 Form Approved:

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15 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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