

1 Introduced by Council Members Morgan and Boylan:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-295**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING WJCT
6 PUBLIC MEDIA ON PROVIDING 50 YEARS OF "RADIO
7 THAT MATTERS"; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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9 **WHEREAS**, on April 10, 1972, WJCT 89.9 FM joined a nationwide
10 network of public radio stations and took to the air in Jacksonville
11 as "Stereo 90", broadcasting music, news, and public affairs
12 programming for approximately 18 hours a day to the Northeast Florida/
13 Southeast Georgia region; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the station has changed formats over the years as
15 broadcasting trends and listener preferences have changed, and after
16 changing to an all-news/talk format in 2020 the station has operated
17 as WJCT News 89.9 and garnered some of the largest audiences in its
18 history; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the station's programming includes WJCT productions
20 such as the local public affairs call-in program "First Coast Connect
21 with Melissa Ross," which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020,
22 and the new health program "What's Health Got To Do With It," which
23 debuted in the last year. WJCT News 89.9 is also the co-producer of
24 the statewide public affairs program "The Florida Roundup," and
25 broadcasts other Florida-focused programs such as "Florida Frontiers"
26 and "Capital Report," in addition to live local newscasts throughout
27 the day; and

28 **WHEREAS**, WJCT News 89.9 is Northeast Florida's local source for
29 the two most popular national news magazine programs in the country,
30 "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" from NPR News. Alongside
31 these listener favorites, the station carries programs from a range

1 of program producers and distributors, including National Public
2 Radio (NPR), American Public Media, PRX and others; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the station has continually adapted over the years as
4 media technology has changed, now offering its content both over the
5 airwaves and through a variety of digital platforms, from HD radio
6 to computer streaming to cellphone apps. These new platforms allow
7 WJCT Public Media to provide a wide range of alternative programming
8 in addition to its primary news/talk format, including podcasts and
9 several channels of digital radio in formats ranging from classical
10 to eclectically curated music streams; and

11 **WHEREAS**, WJCT Public Media is one of the cornerstone
12 institutions in Jacksonville, facilitating public discussion on the
13 important issues of the day, providing timely and accurate news
14 reporting from around the city, the state, the nation, and the world,
15 and facilitating countless events to educate, inform, and entertain
16 the citizens of the Northeast Florida region while building a sense
17 of shared community; now therefore

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

19 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and congratulates
20 WJCT Public Media on providing 50 years of "Radio that Matters" to
21 the Northeast Florida region and extends its best wishes for another
22 half century and more of producing and airing quality programming
23 that enlightens, informs and entertains the region's listening
24 audience. The City commends WCJT Public Media's President and CEO
25 David McGowan, Board Chair Matt Rapp and the station's governing
26 board, and the station's employees for all they do for the
27 Jacksonville community.

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/ Paige H. Johnston

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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