

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci and DeFoor:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-0566**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING A  
6 COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO JACKSONVILLE  
7 DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING AN  
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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10 **WHEREAS**, for the first time in Downtown Jacksonville history,  
11 more than 75 acres of publicly-owned downtown riverfront land is  
12 simultaneously available for development, creating an unprecedented  
13 opportunity to improve and invest in the quality of life for all  
14 Jacksonville citizens by unifying the approach to the downtown  
15 riverfront with a goal of creating a world class network of active  
16 parks and green space; and

17 **WHEREAS**, this represents an opportunity to spotlight and  
18 leverage Jacksonville's greatest natural asset - the majestic St.  
19 Johns River - and to re-establish the downtown riverfront as the  
20 heartbeat of Jacksonville, both socially and economically to drive  
21 job creation; and

22 **WHEREAS**, with over ninety percent of all land along the St.  
23 Johns River currently held by private landowners, we recognize the  
24 need to create a Riverfront for All by connecting the entire  
25 Northbank riverfront - from the Riverside Arts Market to  
26 Metropolitan Park - and the Southbank riverfront - from the  
27 Fuller Warren Bridge to The District - as a single integrated  
28 parkway system that serves and brings together all citizens of  
29 Jacksonville and simultaneously enhances future investment of  
30 commercial property and public infrastructure along the downtown  
31 waterfront; and

1           **WHEREAS**, to integrate both sustainability and resiliency into  
2 all design concepts pertaining to Downtown Jacksonville's  
3 riverfront, we shall take into careful consideration storm water  
4 management and will seek and support implementation of green  
5 solutions that help mitigate storm surge, promote the filtering of  
6 runoff, and enhance natural protections against flooding; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) continues to  
8 stand at the forefront of downtown riverfront improvement and has  
9 commissioned extensive studies and the creation of conceptual plans  
10 for multiple sections of St. Johns River frontage, and will  
11 continue its work to realize a fully comprehensive and inclusive  
12 approach, including feedback from downtown businesses and the  
13 Jacksonville community at large; and

14           **WHEREAS**, an inclusive and collaborative citizen involvement  
15 process best supports efforts to develop a shared vision that  
16 ensures equitable outcomes, provides much-needed public access to  
17 Jacksonville's majestic American Heritage river, prioritizes  
18 interests from all sectors and people, and adds to Downtown  
19 Jacksonville's overall vibrancy, economic vitality, and natural  
20 resiliency; now therefore

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

22           **Section 1.**           This resolution expresses the will of the City  
23 Council to recognize and endorse a comprehensive approach to  
24 planning Jacksonville's downtown riverfront development, and as  
25 such, to support the efforts by key stakeholders - including  
26 Riverfront Parks Now, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the DIA, Scenic  
27 JAX, Groundworks, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, and many others - who  
28 likewise work toward fostering citizen-led initiatives and  
29 consensus-building efforts related to Jacksonville's downtown  
30 riverfront development.

31           **Section 2.           Effective Date.**   This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
2 without the Mayor's signature.

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4 Form Approved:

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7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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11 Carlucci-DeFoor - Downtown riverfront development resolution