

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci and DeFoor and Co-Sponsored  
2 by Council Member Morgan and Substituted on the Floor of Council:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2021-566**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING A  
7 COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO RIVERFRONT PARK  
8 DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLICLY OWNED LAND IN DOWNTOWN  
9 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, for the first time in Downtown Jacksonville's history,  
12 more than 75 acres of downtown riverfront land is publicly owned,  
13 creating an unprecedented opportunity to improve and invest in the  
14 quality of life for all Jacksonville citizens; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Downtown Investment Authority ("DIA") has engaged  
16 in a comprehensive approach to planning the redevelopment of the  
17 downtown riverfront with a goal of creating a world class network of  
18 riverfront active parks and green spaces activated by restaurants,  
19 entertainment venues and attractions; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the DIA has recently adopted Resolution 2021-12-03  
21 directing inclusion of this park network in its updated BID Plan to  
22 be presented to Council for approval in early 2022; and

23 **WHEREAS**, this network of riverfront parks represents an  
24 opportunity to spotlight and leverage Jacksonville's greatest  
25 natural asset - the majestic St. Johns River - and to re-establish  
26 the downtown riverfront as the heartbeat of Jacksonville, both  
27 socially and economically to drive job creation; and

28 **WHEREAS**, with over ninety percent of all land along the St.  
29 Johns River currently held by private landowners, we recognize the  
30 need to create a riverfront for all by connecting the Northbank  
31 riverfront - from the Riverside Arts Market and surrounding museums

1 to Metropolitan Park - with the Southbank riverfront - from the Fuller  
2 Warren Bridge to River's Edge (formerly The District) - for the  
3 purpose of bringing together citizens across Jacksonville and  
4 simultaneously enhancing future investment of commercial property and  
5 public infrastructure; and

6 **WHEREAS**, to be mindful of both sustainability and resiliency  
7 pertaining to design concepts involving Downtown Jacksonville's  
8 riverfront, the Council also strongly recommends careful  
9 consideration of stormwater management and environmentally sensitive  
10 solutions; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the DIA continues to stand at the forefront of downtown  
12 riverfront improvement and has facilitated extensive study and  
13 concepts for multiple sections of the St. Johns River frontage, and  
14 the Council supports its efforts to realize a fully comprehensive and  
15 inclusive approach to the integration of park space to benefit  
16 downtown businesses and the Jacksonville community at large; and

17 **WHEREAS**, an inclusive and collaborative process best supports  
18 efforts to develop a shared vision for riverfront park development,  
19 the Council supports efforts to achieve equitable outcomes and much-  
20 needed public access to Jacksonville's American Heritage river, in  
21 order to enhance and enrich Downtown Jacksonville's overall vibrancy,  
22 economic vitality, and natural resiliency; now therefore

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

24 **Section 1.** This resolution expresses the will of the City  
25 Council to recognize and endorse a comprehensive approach to planning  
26 Jacksonville's downtown riverfront parks development, and as such,  
27 to support the efforts of key stakeholders under the leadership of  
28 the DIA and the City of Jacksonville's Parks, Recreation and Community  
29 Services Department, and a shared commitment to fostering citizen  
30 involvement and consensus-building.

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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6           /s/ Paige H. Johnston          

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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