

1 Introduced by Council Members Freeman, DeFoor, Bowman, Becton,
2 Pittman, Ferraro, Howland, Salem, Diamond, Boylan, and Clark-Murray:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2022-844**

6 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING PAIGE
7 JOHNSTON FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITY
8 COUNCIL AS LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL; PROVIDING AN
9 EFFECTIVE DATE.

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Paige Hobbs Johnston, a native of Central Florida,
12 holds a Bachelor of Arts degree *cum laude* in sociology from the
13 University of Central Florida and earned her *Juris Doctor* degree
14 jointly with a master's degree in political science and a certificate
15 in public administration from the University of Florida; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnston began her legal career in private practice
17 with the Garner Brock and Simon, McGuire Woods, and Rogers Towers law
18 firms, specializing in land use and zoning law before joining the
19 Office of General Counsel in 2012; and

20 **WHEREAS**, since 2012 Ms. Johnston has served the City's legal
21 needs in a variety of capacities, providing legal and legislative
22 counsel to the Planning Commission, the Waterways Commission, and the
23 St. Johns River Ferry Commission. In addition, she has provided legal
24 counsel to JEA, the Jacksonville Port Authority, the Planning and
25 Development Department, the Procurement Division, and the Ombudsman
26 on a myriad of issues including Florida's Government in the Sunshine
27 Law, public records, development processes and procurement; and

28 **WHEREAS**, most particularly, Ms. Johnston has been a trusted
29 legislative counsel to the City Council, its standing committees and
30 subcommittees, and to the individual council members, crafting
31 legislation, researching and advising on policy issues, and offering

1 wise counsel in a variety of contexts. Her expert analysis and advice
2 combined with her friendship and cheerful disposition have been an
3 invaluable asset to the Council and its members over the years; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnston is a highly esteemed member of the legal
5 profession both in Jacksonville and statewide. She is a Florida Bar
6 Board Certified Specialist and a member of the City, County and Local
7 Government and the Environmental Land Use Law Sections of the Florida
8 Bar Association, and is Vice Chair of the Jacksonville Bar
9 Association's Local Government Section. She is also an AV Preeminent
10 attorney, the highest possible rating, by Martindale-Hubbell peer
11 review ratings and in July 2022 was named a Legal Elite Government
12 and Non-Profit Attorney by *Florida Trend* magazine; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnston has recently announced her intention to
14 leave the Office of General Counsel and apply her skills and expertise
15 in the City's Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight; now
16 therefore

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

18 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and thanks
19 Ms. Johnston for her years of dedicated and effective service to the
20 City and particularly to the City Council as its legislative counsel
21 and wishes her the very best of success in her new position in the
22 City's Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight. Her wise counsel
23 and friendship are greatly appreciated, and the City is fortunate to
24 have her continuing to apply her knowledge and skills for the best
25 interests of the citizens of Jacksonville.

26 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
27 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
28 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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