

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Miller and Johnson:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-161-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING JOYCE  
7 DELIFUS FOR HER SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AS  
8 PRESIDENT OF THE SHAWN D. DELIFUS FOUNDATION;  
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, Joyce Delifus serves as President of the Shawn D.  
12 Delifus Foundation, a Jacksonville non-profit organization that she  
13 and her husband, Dennis, established in honor of her late son, Shawn,  
14 a swim coach whose instruction catapulted two students to the 2016  
15 Olympics where they collectively earned five gold medals; and

16 **WHEREAS**, transmuting loss into purpose, the Shawn D. Delifus  
17 Foundation partners with community organizations, including the  
18 Johnson Family YMCA, to provide swimming lessons, water safety  
19 instruction, lifeguarding courses, and other water-based programming  
20 for children and adults in Jacksonville; and

21 **WHEREAS**, under Joyce Delifus' leadership, the Foundation has  
22 helped nearly 2,000 children and adults learn how to swim at no cost,  
23 increasing access to lifesaving skills in underserved communities and  
24 promoting water safety awareness; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, in recognition of her passion and dedication,  
26 Joyce Delifus received the Janet Owens Award from LISC Jacksonville  
27 for her work with the Foundation, which embodies safety, justice, and  
28 positive community engagement. Ms. Delifus was also named the 2025  
29 Winston YMCA Branch Award winner for championing water safety and  
30 helping young people learn life-saving skills and build confidence  
31 in and around water; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the dedication and passion  
2 exhibited by Joyce Delifus and her commitment to honoring her son's  
3 legacy by investing her time, energy, and care in the safety and  
4 well-being of Jacksonville's residents; now therefore

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

6           **Section 1.**           The City Council hereby honors and commends  
7 Joyce Delifus for her service and leadership as President of the  
8 Shawn D. Delifus Foundation and for her tangible contributions to  
9 expanding access to swim education, water safety instruction, and  
10 community engagement in the City of Jacksonville.

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

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15 Form Approved:

16  
17 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

18 Office of General Counsel

19 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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