

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Gay, Clark-Murray, Lahnen,
2 Miller, Salem, Gaffney Jr., Pittman, Carlucci, and Freeman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2024-890**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIVES AND MOURNING THE
7 TRAGIC PASSING OF THE SAPELO SEVEN; PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS,** Sapelo Island is a special place in Southern Georgia,
11 home to the community of Hog Hammock, Gullah-Geechee descendants of
12 formerly enslaved native West Africans brought to the island in the
13 1700s and 1800s to work on plantations. The Sapelo Island Cultural
14 and Revitalization Society hosts an annual Cultural Day festival
15 every October; and

16 **WHEREAS,** on Saturday, October 19, 2024, the gangway of the
17 Marsh Landing Dock on Sapelo Island was lined with festival travelers
18 boarding the ferry when it suddenly collapsed, propelling more than
19 20 people into the water. Seven victims tragically lost their lives
20 that afternoon: Cynthia Gibbs, Jacqueline Crews Carter, Carlotta
21 McIntosh, and Isaiah Thomas from Jacksonville; William Johnson Jr.
22 and Queen Welch of Atlanta; and Charles Houston of Darien, Georgia;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS,** each of the seven Sapelo victims was someone's sister,
25 mother, father, brother, neighbor, role model, and friend. They were
26 beloved members of their communities, and their unexpected passing
27 leaves an immeasurable void in the lives of those who had the honor
28 of knowing them; and

29 **WHEREAS,** this disaster is a reminder of how fragile life can
30 be, but also of the strength that can be found when confronted with
31 grief; now therefore

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

2 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors the lives and
3 mourns the passing of the victims of the Sapelo Island ferry dock
4 collapse: Cynthia Gibbs, Jacqueline Crews Carter, Carlotta McIntosh,
5 Isiah Thomas, William Johnson Jr., Queen Welch and Charles Houston.
6 The City Council extends support to the Gullah-Geechee community and
7 to all those who were injured, and profound condolences to all of
8 those affected by the catastrophic accident on Sapelo Island.

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

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13 Form Approved:

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15 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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