

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, White, Clark-Murray and
2 Ferraro:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2023-289**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE SERVICE
7 AND LEADERSHIP OF CULLEN CHALKER, JACKSONVILLE
8 FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S OLDEST LIVING
9 FIREFIGHTER AND DISTRICT CHIEF; PROVIDING AN
10 EFFECTIVE DATE.

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Cullen Chalker was born on July 10, 1924, in
13 Jacksonville, Florida. After bravely serving our country in World
14 War II, Mr. Chalker returned to his hometown where a job opportunity
15 caught his eye; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Chalker scored the 12th highest on the
17 Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's (JFRD) employment exam out
18 of the 150 applicants that summer, and he reported for duty at Engine
19 9 shortly thereafter. This was the beginning of a firefighting career
20 that would span the next 35 years; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Cullen Chalker was an eyewitness to the unfolding of
22 numerous historical events, and he watched as our city changed and
23 grew. He was on the scene during the Roosevelt Hotel fire in 1963,
24 he experienced disturbances in the city during the civil rights
25 movement, and he witnessed Jacksonville's consolidation. The fire
26 department evolved over the years as well, with the introduction of
27 a third shift and the creation of the Rescue Division; and

28 **WHEREAS**, fighting fires is a dangerous profession, and fire
29 men and women put themselves in harm's way to keep the public safe
30 every day. Mr. Chalker had brushes with injury many times, including
31 once when he encountered an explosion at an appliance store at Broad

1 and Adams Streets and thankfully survived relatively unscathed; and
2 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Chalker was promoted to District Chief in 1971,
3 and he retired from duty in 1983 but went on to manage the Jacksonville
4 Firemen's Credit Union for a decade afterwards; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Cullen Chalker is JFRD's oldest living firefighter
6 and District Chief, who dedicated more than three decades of his life
7 to public service. He loved his job, guarded his city, and he truly
8 appreciated his colleagues in all ranks of the Department; now
9 therefore

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

11 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends retired
12 JFRD District Chief Cullen Chalker for his years of service and
13 leadership in the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. The City
14 Council extends its gratitude to Mr. Chalker for all that he did to
15 ensure the safety of his fellow firefighters and the residents of
16 Jacksonville.

17 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
18 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
19 without the Mayor's signature.

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21 Form Approved:

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23 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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