

**RESOLUTION 2023-11-03**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL TO NAME THE CITY-OWNED BUILDING LOCATED AT 6360 COMMERCE STREET, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32211, IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 1, PURSUANT TO SECTION 122.105 (PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PARKS NAMING AND RENAMING PROCEDURES), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO BE KNOWN AS THE “RITA F. REAGAN BUILDING”; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS,** Rita F. Reagan was a historical preservationist and urban pioneer who worked tirelessly to preserve the historic fabric of Jacksonville, with a particular focus on the remaining historic structures and properties that played an integral part in Jacksonville’s heyday as the “Winter Film Capital of the World”; and

**WHEREAS,** among her many accomplishments, Rita Reagan was a major participant in the campaign to convince the City to purchase the Norman Studios site in Arlington; a goal that was realized when the City purchased the historic complex, minus the set building on Commerce Street, in 2002; and

**WHEREAS,** for almost two decades Mrs. Reagan was deeply involved in the preservation of Norman Studios, first as part of the Old Arlington, Inc. initiative to save the silent film complex, then as a founding member of Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS,** the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc., was created in 2007 with a mission to preserve and restore the entire studio complex, recognizing it as the only surviving race film studio in America, while also conducting educational outreach to honor the studios’ unique place in history; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Jacksonville recently accomplished its goal to reunify the entire historic Norman Studios complex when it acquired two parcels on the corner of Arlington Road and Shackleton Road, one of which included the original set building; and

**WHEREAS,** the set building, located at 6360 Commerce Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32211 in Council District 1, is both a Local and National Historic Landmark and is where most of the on-site filming took place; and

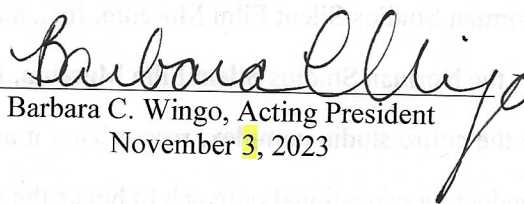
**WHEREAS,** Rita Reagan served for several years as President and Pro Bono Executive Director of the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, was critical in recruiting and retaining the necessary volunteers for that group's efforts, and was instrumental in that group's successfully preserving and restoring the studio complex which opened Phase 1 of the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum in the Studios' production building in August after years of renovations; and

**WHEREAS,** the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc. Board of Directors believes the naming of the historic studio building at Norman Studios the "Rita F. Reagan Building" would be lasting honor and tribute to the significant service and contributions Mrs. Reagan made to the Jacksonville community, and to acknowledge her legacy as the primary preservationist of Norman Studios; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum Board of Directors:

**Section 1.** The Norman Studios Silent Film Museum Board of Directors respectfully requests and encourages the Jacksonville City Council to rename the building located at 6360 Commerce Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32211 in Council District 1 the "Rita F. Reagan Building" in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 122.105, *Ordinance Code*.

**Section 2. Effective Date.** The Effective Date of this Resolution is the date of execution by the President of the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum Board of Directors.

  
Barbara C. Wingo, Acting President  
November 3, 2023