

1 Introduced by Council Members Dennis, Diamond and Co-Sponsored by
2 Council Members Carlucci, Freeman, Bowman, Morgan, Pittman, Salem
3 and Newby:

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5
6 **ORDINANCE 2020-357**

7 AN ORDINANCE RENAMING HEMMING PARK IN DOWNTOWN
8 AS "JAMES WELDON JOHNSON PARK"; AMENDING
9 SECTION 250.516 (RULES AND REGULATIONS) AND
10 SECTION 667.110 (DESIGNATED AND AUTHORIZED
11 LOCATIONS), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO REFLECT THE
12 CHANGE TO JAMES WELDON JOHNSON PARK; PROVIDING
13 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

14
15 **WHEREAS**, James Weldon Johnson was one of Jacksonville's most
16 distinguished and accomplished native sons; and

17 **WHEREAS**, James Weldon Johnson was widely known and respected
18 as an author, diplomat, lawyer, educator and civil rights leader
19 and was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on February 12, 1900, to honor Abraham Lincoln's
21 birthday, James Weldon Johnson had 500 students at the Stanton
22 School where Johnson was principal sing the inaugural performance
23 of the song that he and his brother, John Rosamond Johnson, had
24 composed: 'Lift Every Voice and Sing'; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of
26 Colored People, a national organization then headquartered in New
27 York that James Weldon Johnson headed as Executive Director,
28 subsequently designated 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' as the Negro
29 National Anthem; and

30 **WHEREAS**, James Weldon Johnson later attained additional
31 national prominence by being appointed the United States Consul to

1 Venezuela and Nicaragua; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the family home of James Weldon Johnson and his
3 brother John Rosamond Johnson, in which both brothers were born,
4 raised and lived during a significant portion of their lives is
5 located on the northwest corner of Lee and Houston Streets, Real
6 Estate Number 074828-0010 in downtown Jacksonville a short distance
7 from Hemming Park; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Hemming Park was originally established as a public
9 square in 1857 by Isaiah Hart, the founder of Jacksonville; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Hart family deeded the land to the City in 1861
11 for use as a city park, being the first and oldest park in
12 Jacksonville; and

13 **WHEREAS**, by ordinance action on October 26, 1899, the City
14 Council officially renamed what was known as the time as "City/St.
15 James Park" to "Hemming Park" to honor the Hemming family for the
16 donation of the Confederate Monument gifted by Charles C. Hemming
17 and placed in the park in 1898; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Hemming Park now stands as a public park and open
19 space located at the heart of the government center in downtown;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, due to its centralized location, Hemming Park is an
22 important part of the downtown experience for both tourists and
23 local citizens; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the accomplishments of James Weldon
25 Johnson as a resident of Jacksonville and to honor him as a
26 historic public figure, the Council desires to hereby rename
27 "Hemming Park" in the heart of downtown Jacksonville to "James
28 Weldon Johnson Park"; now therefore

29 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

30 **Section 1. Hemming Park renamed to "James Weldon Johnson**
31 **Park."** Hemming Park, consisting of 1.54 acres of land bounded by

1 Hogan Street North to the west, Duval Street West to the north,
2 Laura Street North to the east and Monroe Street West to the south,
3 in the heart of downtown Jacksonville, is hereby renamed "James
4 Weldon Johnson Park."

5 **Section 2. Amending Section 250.516 (Rules and**
6 **regulations), Ordinance Code.** Section 250.516 (Rules and
7 regulations), Chapter 250 (Miscellaneous Business Regulations),
8 *Ordinance Code*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 **CHAPTER 250. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS.**

10 * * *

11 **PART 5. DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK VENDORS AND OPEN AIR MARKETS.**

12 * * *

13 **SUBPART B. DOWNTOWN OPEN AIR MARKET**

14 * * *

15 **Sec. 250.516. Rules and regulations.**

16 * * *

17 (b) *Open air market site criteria.* The open air market shall be
18 limited to one (1) permit per site and only for the following
19 locations:

- 20 (1) ~~Henning~~ James Weldon Johnson Park;
- 21 (2) South Bank near Riverplace Drive;
- 22 (3) South Bank near Riverplace Tower;
- 23 (4) North Bank Riverwalk;
- 24 (5) South Bank Riverwalk;

25 * * *

26 **Section 3. Amending Section 667.110 (Designated and**
27 **authorized locations), Ordinance Code.** Section 667.110 (Designated
28 and authorized locations), Chapter 667 (Park Vending), is hereby
29 amended to read as follows:

30 **CHAPTER 667. PARK VENDING.**

31 * * *

1 **Sec. 667.110. Designated and authorized locations.**

2 (a) The following locations are designated for use by park
3 vendors, subject to the rules of the Division governing
4 hours of use, placement within the designated location,
5 number of individual or collective park vendors and other
6 reasonable time, place and manner-of-use regulations:

- 7 (1) ~~Hemming~~ James Weldon Johnson Park.
8 (2) St. Johns Park, in the vicinity of Friendship Fountain;
9 (3) The sidewalk of Coastline Drive, as designated by the
10 Division, from the Seaboard System Railroad Building to the
11 easternmost sideline of the Courthouse Parking Lot (West
12 lot).
13 (4) Riverside Park.
14 (5) Memorial Park.
15 (6) Willow Branch Park, West of Park Street.
16 (7) Springfield Park.
17 (8) Metropolitan Park (in those areas controlled by the City).
18 (9) The Riverwalk on the South bank of the St. Johns River.

19 * * *

20 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.
23

24 Form Approved:

25
26 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Paige Hobbs Johnston

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