

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Howland, Becton, Diamond, Ferraro, Newby, Priestly Jackson,  
3 Clark-Murray, Morgan and Carlucci:  
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6 **RESOLUTION 2023-353-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE  
8 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANDARIN COMMUNITY  
9 CLUB AND ITS CENTURY OF SERVICE AND  
10 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MANDARIN COMMUNITY AND  
11 JACKSONVILLE'S QUALITY OF LIFE; PROVIDING AN  
12 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, in 1916, civic-minded and patriotic Mandarin  
15 residents founded the Mandarin Liberty League prior to the nation's  
16 1917 entry into World War I and created projects to assist in the  
17 nation's war effort through the promotion of liberty loan drives  
18 and patriotic parades, as well as support for increased food  
19 production in rural Mandarin; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on July 2, 1923, several years after the war's  
21 conclusion, the Liberty League decided to change its name to the  
22 Mandarin Community Club to reflect its evolving mission to serve  
23 Mandarin's civic and cultural concerns. The newly formed club  
24 elected officers, selecting the same individuals who served in the  
25 Liberty League; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in its earliest years, the club focused on improving  
27 roads and securing electricity for the community, eventually  
28 succeeding when Mandarin celebrated the arrival of electric access  
29 on June 5, 1936; and in 1938 the club took ownership of the half-  
30 century old Mandarin School, built through the efforts of  
31 celebrated author Harriet Beecher Stowe, and the club has since

1 restored and maintained the historic school, now known as the  
2 Mandarin Community Club; and

3       **WHEREAS,** in the club's 100 year history its contributions  
4 include: protecting and promoting Mandarin's natural environment;  
5 hosting thousands of community meetings, programs and events;  
6 founding, supporting and housing Mandarin's first library;  
7 publishing Mandarin history, including the revered books *Mandarin*  
8 *on the St. Johns* and *Palmetto Leaves*; organizing blood drives  
9 dating back 70 years; establishing the Mandarin Art Festival in  
10 1968; purchasing the Mandarin Post Office and Store, now a museum  
11 and a National Register Site; protecting the line of Patriarch Oak  
12 trees along Mandarin Road; establishing the Billard Commemorative  
13 Park to recognize area veterans; acquiring the Sisters of St.  
14 Joseph "one-room" School as a gift to the community; holding an  
15 annual tree giveaway; and celebrating the December holidays with a  
16 community tree lighting on the club's historic properties; and

17       **WHEREAS,** the club has originated and housed many Mandarin  
18 groups, including the Mandarin Volunteer Fire Department; the  
19 Mandarin Well Baby Clinic; the Mandarin Garden Club, the Mandarin  
20 Orange Pickers Baseball Team; the Mandarin Players theater company;  
21 and the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society; and

22       **WHEREAS,** on July 2, 2023, the Mandarin Community Club  
23 celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary; now therefore

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

25       **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commemorates  
26 the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mandarin Community Club and recognizes  
27 the club's contributions to the Mandarin community and to  
28 Jacksonville's quality of life. The City Council extends its  
29 gratitude for the club's century of community service.

30       **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
31 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective

1 without the Mayor's signature.

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3 Form Approved:

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5           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

6 Office of General Counsel

7 Legislation Prepared By: Cory Armstrong, City Council Research

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