

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Salem, Miller, Amaro, Peluso,  
2 and Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council Member Boylan:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-44-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING KAY EHAS,  
7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF GROUNDWORK  
8 JACKSONVILLE, FOR BEING NAMED THE 2025 DOPPELT  
9 FAMILY RAIL-TRAIL CHAMPION BY THE RAILS TO  
10 TRAILS CONSERVANCY; RECOGNIZING HER  
11 EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING THE  
12 EMERALD TRAIL AND FOSTERING COMMUNITY  
13 REVITALIZATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, Kay Ehas serves as the Chief Executive Officer of  
16 Groundwork Jacksonville, the City of Jacksonville's nonprofit partner  
17 dedicated to developing the Emerald Trail and restoring McCoys Creek  
18 and Hogans Creek; and

19 **WHEREAS**, on December 11, 2025, the Rails to Trails Conservancy,  
20 the nation's largest trails organization, named Kay Ehas as the 2025  
21 Doppelt Family Rail-Trail Champion, a prestigious award honoring  
22 individuals who have made significant contributions to the rail-trail  
23 movement; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Ehas is recognized nationally for modeling a  
25 community-driven approach anchored in public-private partnership to  
26 develop the Emerald Trail, a 30-mile linear park system that will  
27 connect 14 historic neighborhoods and downtown Jacksonville to local  
28 trails, parks, schools, and businesses; and

29 **WHEREAS**, under Kay Ehas' leadership, the Emerald Trail Master  
30 Plan was adopted by City Council in 2019, and the first segment, the  
31 LaVilla Link, opened in May 2024, serving as a catalyst for

1 neighborhood revitalization and demonstrating the impact of walking  
2 and biking infrastructure on the region; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Ehas' strategy ensures that residents have a seat  
4 at the table and a voice in shaping their neighborhoods, building  
5 trust and social capital, while addressing environmental concerns and  
6 providing opportunities for the 70 percent of urban core residents  
7 who are considered low income; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to recognize Kay Ehas for her  
9 vision, dedication, and the national acclaim she has brought to the  
10 City of Jacksonville through her work to create a stronger, healthier,  
11 and more connected community; now therefore

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

13 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends Kay Ehas  
14 upon being named the 2025 Doppelt Family Rail-Trail Champion and  
15 expresses its profound appreciation for her tireless efforts in  
16 leading the development of the Emerald Trail and the restoration of  
17 Jacksonville's urban creeks.

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

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22 Form Approved:

23  
24 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Cory Armstrong, Executive Council Assistant

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