

Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Salem, Miller, Amaro, Peluso, and Pittman:

RESOLUTION 2026-44

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, under Kay Ehas' leadership, the Emerald Trail Master Plan was adopted by City Council in 2019, and the first segment, the 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:

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24 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Cory Armstrong, Executive Council
27 Assistant

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