

1 Introduced by Council Member Becton and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Ferraro, Bowman, Boylan, Carlucci, Carrico, Clark-Murray,
3 Cumber, DeFoor, Diamond, Freeman, Gaffney, Jr., Howland, Morgan,
4 Newby, Pittman, Priestly Jackson, Salem, and White and amended on the
5 Floor of Council:
6
7

8 **RESOLUTION 2023-252-A**

9 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE
10 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GEORGE AND KERNAN HODGES
11 IN SHAPING THE FORM AND FUTURE OF JACKSONVILLE;
12 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
13

14 **WHEREAS**, George H. Hodges, Jr., a native of Jacksonville,
15 graduated from the Bolles School and from Jacksonville University and
16 served in the Florida Air National Guard; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hodges began his training in the practical aspects
18 of real estate development at Duval Engineering and Contracting, one
19 of Jacksonville's premier development companies founded by his
20 father, George Sr., and Alexander Brest, where he learned the
21 engineering and construction business from the ground up; and

22 **WHEREAS**, following his father's death in 1975, he took over
23 sole management of the family's 5,000 acres of property on
24 Jacksonville's Southside in addition to some 10,000 acres of land in
25 a real estate trust that he had managed since 1973. In this Owner-
26 Agent capacity, he finalized his family's donation of needed right-
27 of-way for the construction of J. Turner Butler Boulevard, and he
28 envisioned and orchestrated the design, permitting, construction and
29 dedication to the public of Abess and Ashley Melisse Boulevards,
30 Matthew Unger Drive and the majority of Kernan Boulevard, all at no
31 cost to the City; and

1 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Hodges oversaw the master planning and orderly
2 sale of all of the Trust-owned property between St Johns Bluff and
3 San Pablo Roads from north of Butler Boulevard to Hidden Hills Country
4 Club. At the same time, he shepherded the sale and development of his
5 family's property north of Butler Boulevard, including the daily
6 management of Glen Kernan Golf & Country Club until his death, while
7 ensuring via conservation easements with the State of Florida that
8 nearly 3,000 acres lying south of Butler Boulevard will remain largely
9 undeveloped green space for the benefit of the city's environment;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Hodges and his wife Kernan have followed their
12 family's tradition of generous philanthropy to a wide range of causes
13 and institutions in which they believed, including among many others,
14 Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville University and the University of North
15 Florida, the Bolles School, Children's Home Society and Hodges
16 Boulevard Presbyterian Church. In 2016, they were named to the UNF
17 Athletics Department's Hall of Fame for their contribution and
18 development of the Hodges Track & Field Stadium and the Browning
19 Rehab Center located at the stadium; and

20 **WHEREAS,** in addition to his business and civic interests, Mr.
21 Hodges was a great sportsman and enjoyed various sports including
22 golf, tennis, hunting, shooting and big-game fishing. In the 1980's,
23 with a reinvigorated interest in flying, he continued the training
24 begun in 1960, ultimately earning an airline transport pilot rating
25 with pilot-in-command privileges in several different jet makes and
26 models; and

27 **WHEREAS,** with Mr. Hodges' passing the city has lost a legendary
28 figure whose family has changed the face of Jacksonville both by
29 shaping the sensible and coordinated development of a huge swath of
30 the city's Southside over the course of many decades and also through
31 its generous philanthropy to a wide variety of worthy causes and

1 institutions; now therefore

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

3 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
4 the life and countless accomplishments of George and Kernan Hodges
5 over the course of decades to shape the form and the future of
6 Jacksonville through their great generosity. Mr. Hodges was a
7 legendary figure in the Jacksonville community and his example of
8 civic involvement will leave a lasting legacy that the community
9 gratefully acknowledges.

10 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
11 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
12 without the Mayor's signature.

13
14 Form Approved:

15
16 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

19 GC-#1563083-v1-2023-252-A.docx