

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-161**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING JOYCE
6 DELIFUS FOR HER SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AS
7 PRESIDENT OF THE SHAWN D. DELIFUS FOUNDATION;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Joyce Delifus serves as President of the Shawn D.
11 Delifus Foundation, a Jacksonville non-profit organization that she
12 and her husband, Dennis, established in honor of her late son, Shawn,
13 a swim coach whose instruction catapulted two students to the 2016
14 Olympics where they collectively earned five gold medals; and

15 **WHEREAS**, transmuting loss into purpose, the Shawn D. Delifus
16 Foundation partners with community organizations, including the
17 Johnson Family YMCA, to provide swimming lessons, water safety
18 instruction, lifeguarding courses, and other water-based programming
19 for children and adults in Jacksonville; and

20 **WHEREAS**, under Joyce Delifus' leadership, the Foundation has
21 helped nearly 2,000 children and adults learn how to swim at no cost,
22 increasing access to lifesaving skills in underserved communities and
23 promoting water safety awareness; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, in recognition of her passion and dedication,
25 Joyce Delifus received the Janet Owens Award from LISC Jacksonville
26 for her work with the Foundation, which embodies safety, justice, and
27 positive community engagement. Ms. Delifus was also named the 2025
28 Winston YMCA Branch Award winner for championing water safety and
29 helping young people learn life-saving skills and build confidence
30 in and around water; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the dedication and passion

1 exhibited by Joyce Delifus and her commitment to honoring her son's
2 legacy by investing her time, energy, and care in the safety and
3 well-being of Jacksonville's residents; now therefore

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

5 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
6 Joyce Delifus for her service and leadership as President of the
7 Shawn D. Delifus Foundation and for her tangible contributions to
8 expanding access to swim education, water safety instruction, and
9 community engagement in the City of Jacksonville.

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.

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14 Form Approved:

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16 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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