

Introduced by Council Members Boylan and Carlucci and Co-Sponsored
by Council Members Salem, Amaro, White and Johnson and amended by the
Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and Safety
Committee:

ORDINANCE 2025-16-E

AN ORDINANCE RENAMING A PUBLIC PARK PURSUANT TO
SECTION 122.105 (PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PUBLIC
FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PARKS NAMING AND RENAMING
PROCEDURES), *ORDINANCE CODE*; RENAMING "LOSCO
REGIONAL PARK" LOCATED AT 10931 HOOD ROAD SOUTH,
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32257 IN COUNCIL DISTRICT
6, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "RICHARD H. 'DICK' KRAVITZ
REGIONAL PARK" IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DICK KRAVITZ TO THE CITY OF
JACKSONVILLE AND THE MANDARIN COMMUNITY;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Richard H. "Dick" Kravitz, a native of Philadelphia,
earned his bachelor's degree in education from Temple University and
a master's degree in sports administration from Ohio University before
moving to Jacksonville in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kravitz served as general manager for the
Jacksonville Suns baseball team and the Jacksonville Tea Men of the
North American Soccer League through the 1970s before being appointed
in 1979 as Executive Director of the Jacksonville Sports and
Entertainment Commission by Mayor Jake Godbold; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 Dick Kravitz was elected to the Jacksonville
City Council in District 4, representing the Mandarin area and a
large swath of the southeastern portion of the city, then was

1 subsequently re-elected without opposition in 1991 and in 1995 to a
2 renumbered District 6 focused on Mandarin; and

3 **WHEREAS,** while on the City Council he was elected Council
4 President for the 1995-96 Council year and was particularly known as
5 a tireless advocate for bringing much-needed new parkland acquisition
6 and development and improvements to existing parks in the rapidly
7 growing Mandarin area, rectifying past failures to provide adequate
8 recreational resources to meet the City's Comprehensive Plan Level
9 of Service standards as the area's population exploded; and

10 **WHEREAS,** among the 17 park sites added to or substantially
11 improved during Mr. Kravitz's tenure in office are many of Mandarin's
12 most significant recreational and conservation resources, including
13 Rogers Park, which allowed youth seeking to play organized soccer to
14 stay in Jacksonville rather than travel to St. Johns County due to a
15 lack of fields in the area, Tommy Hazouri, Sr. Park (formerly known
16 as Mandarin Regional Park), Palmetto Leaves Regional Park, Losco
17 Regional Park, the Julington Durbin Creek Nature Preserve, and the
18 crowning jewel of his advocacy efforts, the Walter Jones Historical
19 and Nature Park; and

20 **WHEREAS,** because of his dedicated service over the course of
21 two decades representing the Mandarin area at both the city and state
22 level with capability and integrity, and particularly in recognition
23 of his particular advocacy for the creation and development of new
24 parks to meet the needs of the growing Mandarin community, it is
25 fitting that Dick Kravitz's legacy be permanently memorialized with
26 the naming of a park in his honor; and

27 **WHEREAS,** the provisions of Section 122.105, *Ordinance Code*,
28 for the renaming of the park have been met; the public hearings have
29 been held and the Planning and Development Department and Historic
30 Preservation Commission have submitted a report and recommendation
31 to the City Council, respectively; and

1 **WHEREAS,** the Historic Preservation Section, Community Planning
2 Division of the Planning and Development Department has provided its
3 report and recommends approval of this renaming; the Historic
4 Preservation Commission reviewed said report and recommends approval
5 of the proposed renaming as reflected in the Report of the Historic
6 Preservation Section and Advisory Recommendation of the Jacksonville
7 Historic Preservation Commission attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**; now
8 therefore

9 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

10 **Section 1. Renaming of Park to Honor Richard H. "Dick"**
11 **Kravitz.** The "Losco Regional Park" located at 10931 Hood Road South,
12 Jacksonville, Florida 32257 in Council District 6, is hereby renamed
13 the "Richard H. 'Dick' Kravitz Regional Park" in accordance with the
14 procedures set forth in Section 122.105, *Ordinance Code*. The Council
15 desires to honor Dick Kravitz for his service to the City of
16 Jacksonville and the Mandarin community, particularly for his
17 advocacy and accomplishments in acquisition and development of new
18 park land and the substantial improvement of existing public parks
19 in Jacksonville.

20 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.

23
24 Form Approved:

25
26 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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