

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Member Becton, Dennis, Diamond, DeFoor, Carlucci, Newby, Ferraro,
3 Salem, Bowman, Hazouri and Morgan:
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5 **RESOLUTION 2019-815-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE
7 JACKSONVILLE SHARKS ON WINNING THE 2019
8 NATIONAL ARENA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME;
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Sharks, founded in 2010, are an
12 Arena Football team playing in the National Arena League (NAL)
13 since 2017. The Sharks are a perennial powerhouse having won the
14 inaugural NAL championship in 2017; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Sharks 2019 team was led by multiple award
16 winning players, including defensive lineman Nick Woodman who won
17 the NAL 2019 awards for Defensive Rookie of the Year, Defensive
18 Lineman of the Year, and Defensive Player of the year; kicker
19 Brandon Behr who won Special Teams Player of the Year; and
20 offensive lineman Derrick Zeigler who won Offensive Lineman of the
21 Year. Additionally, the Sharks' front office and coaching staff won
22 multiple awards in 2019, including Mascot of the Year, Best Dance
23 Team, Best Medical Staff, Best Game Operations, Best Fan Base, and
24 Best Franchise. James Fuller was awarded the Assistant Coach of the
25 Year Award, and Siaha Burley was awarded the Head Coach of the Year
26 Award; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the Sharks 2019 season was nearly perfect with a
28 record of fifteen wins and only a single loss to the New York
29 Streets in a high scoring game. The Sharks dominance in the NAL
30 regular season continued into the 2019 playoffs where they defeated

1 the Columbus Lions with a score of 67-43 landing them a second NAL
2 Championship appearance; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Sharks faced the Carolina Cobras, a very strong
4 team, in what proved to be a hard fought NAL Championship. The
5 Sharks played hard in the first half, but trailed at the start of
6 the second half by a score of 23-28. The game went back and forth,
7 and the Sharks found themselves trailing with time running out.
8 With only eleven seconds left on the clock, quarterback Mike Fafaul
9 was able to find wide receiver Durren Neal with a pass in the end-
10 zone to score what proved to be the game winning touchdown. The
11 Cobras refused to go quietly and drove their way to the Sharks 6-
12 yard line before the clock ran out giving the Sharks their second
13 NAL championship victory; now therefore

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

15 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
16 commends the Jacksonville Sharks players, Head Coach Siaha Burley,
17 the coaching staff, front office and the entire Sharks organization
18 on their outstanding achievement in winning the 2019 National Arena
19 League championship, and extends its very best wishes for continued
20 success in the future.

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

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25 Form Approved:

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27 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Anthony J. Baltiero, City Council Research

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