

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Salem, Freeman, Carrico, Carlucci, Boylan, Miller, Howland  
3 and Pittman:  
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6 **RESOLUTION 2025-345-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING AREZOU  
8 "ARI" JOLLY FOR HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE  
9 CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AS CHAIR OF THE  
10 JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF  
11 DIRECTORS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
12

13 **WHEREAS,** Arezou "Ari" Jolly has rendered distinguished and  
14 selfless service as Chair of the Jacksonville Transportation  
15 Authority (JTA) Board of Directors from 2021 to 2022, providing  
16 critical leadership during a transformative period for Jacksonville's  
17 transit infrastructure and mobility innovation; and

18 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Jolly was appointed to the JTA Board in 2015 by  
19 Governor Rick Scott and reappointed in 2019 by Governor Ron DeSantis,  
20 reflecting a continued confidence in her strategic insight, legal  
21 acumen, and civic integrity; and

22 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Jolly's professional career includes her current  
23 role as Senior Assistant General Counsel and Expert Counsel at  
24 GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation (Florida Blue), where she  
25 advises on investment strategy, corporate development, and board  
26 governance for numerous subsidiaries and joint ventures; and

27 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Jolly is an accomplished attorney, having  
28 graduated from Florida State College of Law with Highest Honors, she  
29 previously practiced at the prestigious law firm of Rogers, Towers,  
30 Bailey, Jones, and Gay, and is a member of both the Florida Bar and  
31 the Jacksonville Bar Association; and

1       **WHEREAS,** Ms. Jolly commitment to public service is evident  
2 through her roles on the boards of Fleet Landing, the American Public  
3 Transportation Association, the JU Public Policy Institute, and the  
4 Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, where she also served as  
5 Chair; and

6       **WHEREAS,** a proud veteran of the United States Navy, Ms. Jolly  
7 served with distinction as a Naval Officer from 1983 to 1990 and was  
8 awarded the Navy Achievement Medal in 1987, later graduating with  
9 honors from the Naval Legal Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island;  
10 and

11       **WHEREAS,** Ms. Jolly continues to be a dedicated advocate for  
12 veterans, having chaired the Veterans Network at Florida Blue and the  
13 Greater Jacksonville Area USO, and she is a recognized thought leader  
14 on the contributions of women veterans and the multicultural U.S.  
15 Armed Forces; and

16       **WHEREAS,** Ms. Jolly's excellence and influence have been  
17 acknowledged through numerous honors, including being named a Woman  
18 of Influence by the Jacksonville Business Journal (2015), a Woman Who  
19 Moves the Nation by the Conference of Minority Transportation  
20 Officials (2022), a finalist for the Florida Times-Union's EVE Award  
21 (2022), Jacksonville University's Outstanding Military Alumnus of  
22 Distinction (2022), and the American Public Transportation  
23 Association's Outstanding Public Transportation Board Member of the  
24 Year (2024); and

25       **WHEREAS,** Ms. Jolly's leadership has left an indelible mark on  
26 Jacksonville's transportation ecosystem, its civic institutions, and  
27 the lives of countless residents, exemplifying the very best of  
28 servant leadership and civic responsibility; now therefore

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

30       **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends  
31 Arezou Ari Jolly for her exemplary service and leadership as Chair

1 of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority Board of Directors from  
2 2021 to 2022 and expresses deep gratitude for her decades of  
3 professional excellence, community commitment, and military service.  
4 The City Council extends its best wishes to Ms. Jolly in all future  
5 endeavors and trusts that her legacy will continue to inspire  
6 generations of civic and corporate leaders across the region.

7 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
8 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
9 without the Mayor's signature.

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11 Form Approved:

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13 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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