

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Amaro and Co-Sponsored by
2 Council Members Arias, Boylan, J. Carlucci, Carlucci, Carrico, Clark-
3 Murray, Diamond, Freeman, Gaffney, Jr., Gay, Howland, Lahnen, Miller,
4 Peluso, Pittman, Salem and White and twice amended on the Floor of
5 Council:

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8 **RESOLUTION 2026-229-A**

9 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING ROB
10 SWEETING, WJXT TV4 ANCHOR EMERITUS, FOR HIS
11 EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO BROADCAST
12 JOURNALISM, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, AND THE
13 CIVIC LIFE OF JACKSONVILLE, AND RECOGNIZING HIS
14 DECADES OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE
15 OF JACKSONVILLE AND NORTHEAST FLORIDA;
16 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
17 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

18
19 **WHEREAS**, Rob Sweeting stood among the most respected and enduring
20 voices in the history of Jacksonville broadcast journalism, a
21 communicator whose steady presence, disciplined reporting, and
22 unwavering commitment to truth helped inform and shape the civic life
23 of Northeast Florida for generations; and

24 **WHEREAS**, a native of Miami, Florida, Mr. Sweeting graduated from
25 Miami Carol City Senior High School in 1970 and later earned his
26 degree from Florida Atlantic University, where he sharpened the craft
27 of writing, reporting, and storytelling that would become the
28 foundation of a remarkable career in journalism; and

29 **WHEREAS**, at a time when opportunities in television news for
30 Black journalists were scarce, Rob Sweeting pursued excellence with
31 courage and conviction, refusing to accept the limitations of the

1 moment and instead becoming a living example that talent, preparation,
2 and integrity can open doors once thought closed; and

3 **WHEREAS**, his professional journey carried him through reporting
4 and anchoring roles in West Palm Beach, Tampa, Miami, and Atlanta,
5 before bringing him to Jacksonville, where what began as a temporary
6 opportunity became an extraordinary tenure of approximately three
7 decades at WJXT Channel 4, where he became one of the most trusted
8 and familiar voices in local media; and

9 **WHEREAS**, during his distinguished years at WJXT, Mr. Sweeting
10 helped build and expand the station's local news programming,
11 including the launch of early morning broadcasts and expanded evening
12 newscasts, strengthening the powerful news product that would become
13 a cornerstone of Channel 4's identity and success; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Rob Sweeting embodied the highest ideals of journalism
15 through investigative reporting that exposed wrongdoing, illuminated
16 public dangers, and protected the public trust, demonstrating that
17 the press serves its greatest purpose when it shines light into the
18 places where accountability is needed most; and

19 **WHEREAS**, beyond the newsroom, Mr. Sweeting demonstrated a deep
20 and abiding commitment to community service, including work
21 supporting the Children's Home Society, demonstrating a life devoted
22 not only to informing the public but to uplifting it; and

23 **WHEREAS**, through decades of calm authority, thoughtful inquiry,
24 and unshakable professionalism, Rob Sweeting helped Jacksonville see
25 itself more clearly, understand itself more honestly, and believe
26 more deeply in the power of truth told well; now therefore

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

28 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends Rob
29 Sweeting, WJXT TV4 Anchor Emeritus, for his extraordinary
30 contributions to journalism, public accountability, and the civic
31 life of Jacksonville. The City Council expresses its profound

1 gratitude for a career defined by excellence, courage, integrity, and
2 service to the people of Jacksonville and Northeast Florida.

3 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
4 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
5 introduction of this Resolution is requested. The nature of the
6 emergency is the recent passing of Rob Sweeting and the Council's
7 desire to timely and formally honor a life of extraordinary public
8 service, to memorialize his enduring contributions to journalism and
9 the civic fabric of Jacksonville, and to present this Resolution to
10 his family as a lasting expression of the City's deepest condolences,
11 profound gratitude, and collective esteem.

12 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
13 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
14 without the Mayor's signature.

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16 Form Approved:

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18 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

19 Office of General Counsel

20 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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