

1 Introduced by Council Members Boylan, Johnson, Howland, Pittman,  
2 Salem, Gay, J. Carlucci, Diamond, Freeman, Carlucci, Amaro and  
3 Clark-Murray and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Arias, Carrico,  
4 Gaffney, Jr., Lahnen, Miller, Peluso and White and twice amended on  
5 the Floor of Council:  
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8 **RESOLUTION 2024-263-A**

9 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING DEPUTY  
10 GENERAL COUNSEL LAWSIKIA HODGES ON HER  
11 OUTSTANDING CAREER WITH THE OFFICE OF GENERAL  
12 COUNSEL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
13

14 **WHEREAS,** Lawsikia Hodges earned her bachelor's degree with  
15 honors in political science from the University of North Florida and  
16 her law degree with honors from the University of Florida Levin  
17 College of Law, where she was a member of the Moot Court Team, served  
18 as an intern for the United States House of Representatives, and was  
19 a Legal Research and Writing Professor's Assistant; and

20 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Hodges began her legal career as a business law  
21 associate at Foley & Lardner LLP in Jacksonville in the Real Estate  
22 and Finance Practice Group and Business Law Department for 5 years  
23 before joining the City's Office of General Counsel in 2007; and

24 **WHEREAS,** Lawsikia Hodges has practiced in a wide variety of  
25 areas in the General Counsel's Office, including real estate and  
26 public finance transactions, government procurement, budget  
27 ordinances, economic incentives and community redevelopment, federal  
28 and local grants, sunshine law, public records, and ethics; and

29 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Hodges has served as lead counsel to various  
30 independent authorities and City boards and commissions, including  
31 the Jacksonville Port Authority, Jacksonville Electric Authority,

1 Jacksonville Housing Authority, Jacksonville Housing Finance  
2 Authority, Police and Fire Pension Board of Trustees, Downtown  
3 Investment Authority, Tourist Development Council, Public Service  
4 Grant Council, Kids Hope Alliance, and Jacksonville Housing and  
5 Community Development Commission; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Hodges has provided invaluable counsel to the  
7 City Council, its members, and committees during her sixteen-year  
8 career with the Office of General Counsel, offering expertise,  
9 insight, and skill in understanding and drafting legislation on a  
10 wide variety of policy issues. She has particularly excelled in  
11 crafting legislation on major policy issues, including substantial  
12 amendments to the JEA Charter, a major re-write of the City's  
13 Procurement Code and other significant legislative creation  
14 ordinances and/or Ordinance Code rewrites involving the Kids Hope  
15 Alliance, the Downtown Investment Authority, the Jacksonville Small  
16 and Emerging Business Program, the Duval County Tourist Development  
17 Council, and the Public Service Grant Council; and

18 **WHEREAS**, during her tenure at the Office of General Counsel,  
19 Ms. Hodges became Florida Bar board certified in City, County and  
20 Local Government Law in 2016 and was recertified in 2021, she was  
21 recognized by *Florida Trend Magazine* as one of Florida's "Legal Elite"  
22 top government attorneys, and received the highest rating of AV  
23 Preeminent® Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rated Attorney™,  
24 indicating that her peer lawyers ranked her legal ability and ethical  
25 standards among the highest in the legal community; additionally, Ms.  
26 Hodges was appointed by the Florida Bar President to serve as Vice  
27 Chair of the City, County and Local Government Law Certification  
28 Committee, the Florida Bar committee responsible for reviewing,  
29 developing, and grading City, County and Local Government board  
30 certification applications and exams; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Hodges has been involved in lending her

1 expertise and time to a variety of community organizations, including  
2 current or previous membership on the board of the Museum of  
3 Contemporary Art Jacksonville, Inc., WJCT, Inc., the Pace Center for  
4 Girls, and as a deeply devoted member of the Catholic Church - the  
5 Jacksonville Chapter of Young Catholic Professionals; and

6 **WHEREAS,** the Council also wishes to recognize Ms. Hodges for  
7 being instrumental in the creation of the Northeast Florida Fire  
8 Watch Council, an intergovernmental agency comprised of five member  
9 counties (City of Jacksonville/Duval County, Baker County, Clay  
10 County, Nassau County and St. Johns County), and notes that she  
11 single-handedly coordinated the legal efforts of the all five counties  
12 to establish this agency as the first of its kind in the State of  
13 Florida; and

14 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Hodges has announced resignation as Deputy  
15 General Counsel within the Office of General Counsel to resume her  
16 transactional and government law practice in the private sector and  
17 the City Council wishes to express its thanks for all her  
18 contributions during her career with the Office of General Counsel;  
19 now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and congratulates  
22 Deputy General Counsel Lawsikia Hodges on her outstanding career in  
23 the Office of General Counsel and thanks her for nearly two decades  
24 of dedicated and effective service to the City and its citizens. The  
25 Council is especially grateful for her wise counsel and invaluable  
26 assistance to the City Council and its members over the years and  
27 extends its best wishes for success and happiness in her future  
28 endeavors.

29 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
30 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
31 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:  
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3           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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