

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Gaffney, Jr., Howland, Newby
2 and Clark-Murray:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2023-99**

6 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LEGACY OF JACOBS
7 JEWELERS, FLORIDA'S OLDEST JEWELRY STORE, AND
8 HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ITS OWNERS, ROY AND
9 DELORISE THOMAS, WHO PROVIDED MORE THAN SIX
10 DECADES OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN
11 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the business now known as Jacobs Jewelers was founded
14 in 1867 on Bay Street by Damon Greenleaf who was later joined by J.H.
15 Crosby in 1890 and together they operated a jewelry business as
16 Greenleaf & Crosby. The business being very successful, the partners
17 constructed the impressive building bearing their names at the corner
18 of Laura and Adams Streets to house the store in 1927, and in 1930
19 sold the business and building to V.E. Jacobs for whom Jacobs Jewelers
20 was named; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Roy and Delorise Thomas married in 1960 and went into
22 the jewelry business together that year, leasing a small retail space
23 in the May-Cohens department store in the St. James Building (now
24 City Hall) for their first shop. In 1968 the Thomases moved two blocks
25 south on Laura Street to work at Jacobs Jewelers in the Greenleaf &
26 Crosby Building; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Roy and Delorise Thomas purchased Jacobs Jewelers in
28 1986 and for nearly four decades have maintained its status as a
29 downtown icon, providing the highest quality merchandise and
30 friendly, personal service to generations of patrons. The store
31 carries a full range of jewelry, gems, watches and clocks, fine china,

1 and gift items, and has been a destination for generations of shoppers
2 seeking specialty gifts for many important life occasions; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Thomases have also been the protective custodians
4 of the iconic Seth Thomas four-sided clock originally purchased by
5 Greenleaf and Crosby for their Bay Street store following
6 Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901, and relocated to their new store
7 in 1927. Mr. Thomas oversaw the complete restoration and refurbishment
8 of the clock in 1995 and gifted it to the City of Jacksonville; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Roy and Delorise Thomas have recently announced their
10 retirement from the jewelry business after 62 years in downtown
11 Jacksonville, and Jacobs Jewelers, the oldest jewelry store in Florida
12 and a cornerstone of downtown, will be closing its doors after serving
13 generations of customers for 155 years; now therefore

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

15 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby commemorates the legacy
16 of Jacobs Jewelers and honors and commends Roy and Delorise Thomas
17 for their six decades of outstanding professional and personal service
18 to the citizens of Jacksonville. The City Council wishes Mr. and Mrs.
19 Thomas many happy and healthy years in their retirement and thanks
20 them for all they have done for downtown Jacksonville.

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/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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