

1 Introduced by Council Members Freeman, DeFoor, Bowman, Becton,
2 Pittman, Ferraro, Howland, Salem, Diamond, Boylan, and Clark-Murray
3 and Co-Sponsored by Council Members White, Newby, Carlucci, Gaffney,
4 Priestly Jackson, Morgan, and Carrico:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2022-844-A**

8 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING PAIGE
9 JOHNSTON FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITY
10 COUNCIL AS LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL; PROVIDING AN
11 EFFECTIVE DATE.
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Paige Hobbs Johnston, a native of Central Florida,
14 holds a Bachelor of Arts degree *cum laude* in sociology from the
15 University of Central Florida and earned her *Juris Doctor* degree
16 jointly with a master's degree in political science and a certificate
17 in public administration from the University of Florida; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnston began her legal career in private practice
19 with the Garner Brock and Simon, McGuire Woods, and Rogers Towers law
20 firms, specializing in land use and zoning law before joining the
21 Office of General Counsel in 2012; and

22 **WHEREAS**, since 2012 Ms. Johnston has served the City's legal
23 needs in a variety of capacities, providing legal and legislative
24 counsel to the Planning Commission, the Waterways Commission, and the
25 St. Johns River Ferry Commission. In addition, she has provided legal
26 counsel to JEA, the Jacksonville Port Authority, the Planning and
27 Development Department, the Procurement Division, and the Ombudsman
28 on a myriad of issues including Florida's Government in the Sunshine
29 Law, public records, development processes and procurement; and

30 **WHEREAS**, most particularly, Ms. Johnston has been a trusted
31 legislative counsel to the City Council, its standing committees and

1 subcommittees, and to the individual council members, crafting
2 legislation, researching and advising on policy issues, and offering
3 wise counsel in a variety of contexts. Her expert analysis and advice
4 combined with her friendship and cheerful disposition have been an
5 invaluable asset to the Council and its members over the years; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnston is a highly esteemed member of the legal
7 profession both in Jacksonville and statewide. She is a Florida Bar
8 Board Certified Specialist and a member of the City, County and Local
9 Government and the Environmental Land Use Law Sections of the Florida
10 Bar Association, and is Vice Chair of the Jacksonville Bar
11 Association's Local Government Section. She is also an AV Preeminent
12 attorney, the highest possible rating, by Martindale-Hubbell peer
13 review ratings and in July 2022 was named a Legal Elite Government
14 and Non-Profit Attorney by *Florida Trend* magazine; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Johnston has recently announced her intention to
16 leave the Office of General Counsel and apply her skills and expertise
17 in the City's Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight; now
18 therefore

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

20 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and thanks
21 Ms. Johnston for her years of dedicated and effective service to the
22 City and particularly to the City Council as its legislative counsel
23 and wishes her the very best of success in her new position in the
24 City's Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight. Her wise counsel
25 and friendship are greatly appreciated, and the City is fortunate to
26 have her continuing to apply her knowledge and skills for the best
27 interests of the citizens of Jacksonville.

28 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
29 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
30 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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