

1 Introduced by Council Member DeFoor:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-398**

5 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING WARREN E. JONES FOR  
6 HIS SERVICE TO RIVERSIDE AVONDALE PRESERVATION  
7 UPON HIS RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
8 DATE.  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, in 2016 Warren E. Jones retired as vice president and  
11 chief of communications after 34 years with Tallahassee Memorial  
12 Hospital. Contemplating how to spend their retirement years, Warren  
13 and his wife, Faith, fell in love with the historic character,  
14 beautiful parks and vibrant businesses in Jacksonville's Riverside  
15 and Avondale neighborhoods. The Jones' moved from Tallahassee and  
16 selected their new home on Challen Avenue in Avondale for the  
17 area's charm, walkability, and to be closer to family; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Riverside Avondale Preservation strives to preserve  
19 the architecture, history, cultural heritage and economic vitality  
20 of the historic neighborhoods of Riverside and Avondale in  
21 Jacksonville. RAP also produces programs such as the weekly  
22 Riverside Arts Market and Annual Home Tour; and

23 **WHEREAS**, as a new resident, Warren Jones immediately involved  
24 himself in the community and with Riverside Avondale Preservation,  
25 attending social events and participating in the annual home tour.  
26 When the opportunity arose to become RAP's 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Director,  
27 Mr. Jones agreed to fill the position that offered him a sense of  
28 purpose and a chance to contribute to the historic neighborhood he  
29 loves; and

30 **WHEREAS**, during his term of leadership, Warren Jones led the  
31 Historical Tourism Taskforce with the Jacksonville Historical

1 Society and Consortium in partnership with Visit Jacksonville in  
2 order to identify historic sites across the city for visitors and  
3 residents alike to experience. He was instrumental in this process  
4 and helped create a foundation for access to historic and heritage  
5 tourism through an online platform on the Visit Jacksonville  
6 website that is a benefit to all citizens and visitors of our city;  
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, there were numerous zoning and historic preservation  
9 initiatives where Warren Jones took a leadership role, along with  
10 RAP's zoning and historic preservation committee, to advocate for  
11 outcomes intended to maintain the historic fabric and livability of  
12 our neighborhood. Warren also oversaw the formation of the Parks  
13 Standing Committee dedicated to improving park maintenance,  
14 developing a vibrant parks stewardship program, connecting the  
15 parks via wayfinding, advocating for tree planting and working with  
16 the City Parks Department on ways to further upgrade or activate  
17 the 26 parks in Avondale and Riverside; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Warren Jones considered resiliency and sustainability  
19 top priorities in all RAP projects, and collaborated with City  
20 Council and other agencies to enhance the Riverside Avondale tree  
21 canopied roads with new plantings. Mr. Jones' tenure brought about  
22 the formation and facilitation of the 5 Points Collaborative, a  
23 group of stakeholders, merchants, churches, organizations and  
24 individuals with the objective of developing ideas for 5 Points,  
25 connecting parks, highlighting events, advocating for CIP projects,  
26 improving maintenance and landscaping; and

27 **WHEREAS**, during his tenure as RAP's Executive Director, Warren  
28 Jones faced unexpected challenges associated with the COVID-19  
29 pandemic, but still endeavored to benefit his neighborhood and  
30 share its unique character with the rest of the city. This year  
31 there was a RAP Garden Tour, the first in many years, where

1 participants were able to enjoy gardens as diverse as the  
2 architecture of the neighborhood, and RAP carried on the three-  
3 decade-old holiday tradition, Luminaria, as a way to build a sense  
4 of community in a socially distanced fashion under pandemic  
5 restrictions. The pandemic also impacted RAP's annual preservation  
6 awards, wherein there was a newly added COVID-19 Innovation Award  
7 category. Warren's fiscally responsible leadership and decisions  
8 during the pandemic allowed RAP to emerge from COVID as a healthy  
9 organization despite Riverside Arts Market (RAM) and other  
10 fundraising events either postponed or cancelled during that time.  
11 Warren, along with the RAM team, gave oversight to the successful,  
12 responsible, safe restart of RAM as approved by the City of  
13 Jacksonville; now therefore

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

15 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends  
16 Warren Jones for his service to his neighbors, to Riverside  
17 Avondale Preservation and to our city. Jacksonville City Council  
18 appreciates Mr. Jones for his leadership during both the usual and  
19 the more challenging circumstances, congratulates him upon his  
20 retirement, and wishes the best to him and his family in all their  
21 future endeavors.

22 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
23 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
24 without the Mayor's signature.

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26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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