

1 Introduced by Council Member DeFoor:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-658**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE 100TH
6 ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE GARDEN CLUB
7 OF JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
8

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1922, philanthropist and society leader Ninah
10 Cummer, along with 17 other women, founded the Garden Club of
11 Jacksonville in her home on Riverside Drive where the Cummer Museum
12 now stands. Founding members focused on city planning projects, with
13 a particular focus on creating and revitalizing city parks; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Garden Club was instrumental in creating spaces
15 like Riverside's Memorial Park and preserving many of the city's
16 ancient live oak trees. The Garden Club, along with philanthropist
17 Jessie Ball duPont, helped rescue the historic Treaty Oak, a landmark
18 located on the Southbank in what is now Jessie Ball duPont Park; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in the 1940s, Garden Club membership grew so large, it
20 became clear a clubhouse was needed. Between 1948 and 1958, the Garden
21 Club's campus expanded to house a larger space for meetings and events
22 to be the site of horticulture and design lectures, demonstrations,
23 exhibitions, and plant and garden sales; and

24 **WHEREAS**, now, in its 100th year, the Garden Club has more than
25 1,000 members, including 25 "circles", the traditional smaller groups
26 that made up the Garden Club in Ninah Cummer's day, which make up
27 around 60 percent of total membership. Members of the public can also
28 join as Friends members, which make up about 40 percent of total
29 membership; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the Garden Club hosts several public events each month
31 focused on environmental education and horticultural design and

1 education for both adults and children, and holds regular public
2 programs and horticultural shows to spread knowledge to the general
3 public about the joys of gardening, the importance of environmental
4 issues to the community, floral design, and more; now therefore

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

6 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and celebrates
7 the Garden Club of Jacksonville on the occasion of the 100th
8 anniversary of its founding and extends its best wishes for another
9 century of service to the natural environment and the community at
10 large. The good work of the Garden Club helps to make Jacksonville
11 an exceptional place to live by highlighting the importance of the
12 natural environment and the beauty of gardening to elevating our
13 quality of life.

14 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
15 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
16 without the Mayor's signature.

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18 Form Approved:

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20 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

21 Office of General Counsel

22 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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