

1 Introduced by Council Members Peluso, Clark-Murray, Boylan and Gay
2 and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Amaro and Pittman:

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4
5 **RESOLUTION 2024-262-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING CAPTAIN
7 MIKE GETCHELL ON HIS WORK FOR JACKSONVILLE'S
8 WATERWAYS AND PORT COMMUNITIES IN HIS MORE THAN
9 FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
10 RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

11
12 **WHEREAS,** Captain Mike Getchell began his career in the
13 waterways community in 1978; and

14 **WHEREAS,** Captain Getchell has long stood as a trusted
15 coordinator and communicator in bringing various stakeholders
16 together, including the United States Coast Guard, the National
17 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"), the United States
18 Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Navy, and the City of
19 Jacksonville, who all have an interest in Jacksonville's waterways
20 to resolve waterway safety issues and navigational challenges; and

21 **WHEREAS,** through his efforts in conducting multiple risk
22 assessments, at the request of the Army Corps of Engineers, Captain
23 Getchell was able to develop a thorough list of mitigation efforts
24 to increase navigational safety; and

25 **WHEREAS,** Captain Getchell has maintained a steady presence in
26 the waterways community over the decades, consistently attending
27 Jacksonville Waterways Commission ("JWC") meetings and serving as the
28 maritime representative on the NOAA's Southeast Implementation Team;
29 and

30 **WHEREAS,** through his service to JWC and NOAA, Captain Getchell
31 has been a fierce advocate for marine wildlife, having been

1 instrumental in the development and implementation of the Manatee
2 Protection Program for JWC and in the Recovery Plan for the North
3 Atlantic Right Whale for NOAA; and

4 **WHEREAS,** each year, Captain Getchell has coordinated a meeting
5 of various waterways stakeholders in preparing for the upcoming
6 hurricane season and established the protocol to assist the Captain
7 of the Port to reopen waterways following any storm; and

8 **WHEREAS,** Captain Getchell worked to secure a \$2.8 million Port
9 Security grant in 2012 for the installation of a Physical
10 Oceanographic Real-Time System, which is a decision-support tool
11 consisting of 27 strategically-placed sensors along the river that
12 greatly improved the safety and efficiency of maritime commerce and
13 coastal resource management; and

14 **WHEREAS,** Captain Getchell has decided to retire after more
15 than four decades of service to the Jacksonville waterways community;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville Waterways Commission honored Captain
18 Getchell for his accomplishments ahead of his retirement at its
19 meeting on March 14, 2024, and expressed interest in formally
20 recognizing him via Resolution; now therefore

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

22 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors Captain Mike
23 Getchell and commends him for the tireless work that he has done to
24 bring people together to keep Jacksonville's waterways open and safe.
25 Recognizing that his commitment to improve navigational safety in the
26 Port of Jacksonville will be sorely missed but not soon forgotten,
27 the City Council expresses its gratitude for the work that Captain
28 Getchell has done for Jacksonville's waterways over the past 46 years,
29 its congratulations on his retirement, and its best wishes for his
30 continued happiness long into retirement.

31 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
2 without the Mayor's signature.

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4 Form Approved:

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6 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Eamon Webb, City Council Research

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