

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-389**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING SWISHER
6 (FORMERLY SWISHER INTERNATIONAL INC.) ON ITS 100
7 YEARS IN JACKSONVILLE AND 162ND YEAR OF OVERALL
8 OPERATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Swisher, a family-owned company established in 1861,
11 relocated its corporate and manufacturing headquarters from Newark,
12 Ohio, to Jacksonville's Springfield neighborhood in 1924, creating
13 what would become the world's largest cigar manufacturing facility
14 under one roof by 1941; and

15 **WHEREAS**, over the past century, Swisher is credited with
16 transforming the cigar industry with innovative manufacturing
17 techniques including the introduction of "fresh work" cigar rolling
18 machines in 1924 and the first individually cellophane-wrapped
19 cigars; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Swisher was the first company in the nation to
21 establish an industrial children's nursery in 1939, providing full-
22 service childcare for its employees; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the company's more than 6,000 employees across
24 Swisher's global footprint that includes the U.S., the Dominican
25 Republic and Nicaragua embody the company's core values of staying
26 curious, workplace inclusion, embracing risks, excellence always, and
27 being team focused in all that they do; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Swisher's commitment to innovation with respect to
29 proprietary manufacturing techniques, product quality, and customer
30 satisfaction has established the company as a leader in its industry.
31 Swisher Sweets Cigars, first introduced in 1958, remains the number

1 one selling cigar by volume in the world, and Drew Estate, which
2 produces the ACID brand of handcrafted, infused premium cigars, which
3 Swisher acquired in 2014; and

4 **WHEREAS,** Swisher remains a privately held, family-owned
5 company operated by multiple generations of the current ownership
6 family which acquired the company from the Swisher family in 1966.
7 The company's leadership and employees continue to advance the
8 company's century-plus legacy of philanthropic and civic engagement
9 which started with the Swisher family and continues today with current
10 ownership, through strategic partnerships and programs supporting our
11 nation's heroes and their families, and community vitality; now
12 therefore

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

14 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
15 Swisher for its 100 years in Jacksonville and 162 years in business
16 and for its services and commitment to the Jacksonville community.
17 The Council extends best wishes to the company and its ownership,
18 management and employees for the very best of continued success in
19 the years ahead.

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

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24 Form Approved:

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26 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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