

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Amaro:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-229**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING ROB
6 SWEETING, WJXT TV4 ANCHOR EMERITUS, FOR HIS
7 EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO BROADCAST
8 JOURNALISM, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, AND THE
9 CIVIC LIFE OF JACKSONVILLE, AND RECOGNIZING HIS
10 DECADES OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE
11 OF JACKSONVILLE AND NORTHEAST FLORIDA;
12 REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION;
13 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Rob Sweeting stands among the most respected and
16 enduring voices in the history of Jacksonville broadcast journalism,
17 a communicator whose steady presence, disciplined reporting, and
18 unwavering commitment to truth helped inform and shape the civic life
19 of Northeast Florida for generations; and

20 **WHEREAS**, a native of Miami, Florida, Mr. Sweeting graduated from
21 Miami Carol City Senior High School in 1970 and later earned his
22 degree from Florida Atlantic University, where he sharpened the craft
23 of writing, reporting, and storytelling that would become the
24 foundation of a remarkable career in journalism; and

25 **WHEREAS**, at a time when opportunities in television news for
26 Black journalists were scarce, Rob Sweeting pursued excellence with
27 courage and conviction, refusing to accept the limitations of the
28 moment and instead becoming a living example that talent, preparation,
29 and integrity can open doors once thought closed; and

30 **WHEREAS**, his professional journey carried him through reporting
31 and anchoring roles in West Palm Beach, Tampa, Miami, and Atlanta,

1 before bringing him to Jacksonville, where what began as a temporary
2 opportunity became an extraordinary tenure of approximately three
3 decades at WJXT Channel 4, where he became one of the most trusted
4 and familiar voices in local media; and

5 **WHEREAS**, during his distinguished years at WJXT, Mr. Sweeting
6 helped build and expand the station's local news programming,
7 including the launch of early morning broadcasts and expanded evening
8 newscasts, strengthening the powerful news product that would become
9 a cornerstone of Channel 4's identity and success; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Rob Sweeting embodied the highest ideals of journalism
11 through investigative reporting that exposed wrongdoing, illuminated
12 public dangers, and protected the public trust, demonstrating that
13 the press serves its greatest purpose when it shines light into the
14 places where accountability is needed most; and

15 **WHEREAS**, beyond the newsroom, Mr. Sweeting demonstrated a deep
16 and abiding commitment to community service, including work
17 supporting the Children's Home Society, demonstrating a life devoted
18 not only to informing the public but to uplifting it; and

19 **WHEREAS**, through decades of calm authority, thoughtful inquiry,
20 and unshakable professionalism, Rob Sweeting helped Jacksonville see
21 itself more clearly, understand itself more honestly, and believe
22 more deeply in the power of truth told well; now therefore

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

24 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends Rob
25 Sweeting, WJXT TV4 Anchor Emeritus, for his extraordinary
26 contributions to journalism, public accountability, and the civic
27 life of Jacksonville. The City Council expresses its profound
28 gratitude for a career defined by excellence, courage, integrity, and
29 service to the people of Jacksonville and Northeast Florida.

30 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
31 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon

1 introduction of this Resolution is requested. The nature of the
2 emergency is the desire to timely convey commendation to the honoree
3 who is facing dire health issues.

4 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
5 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
6 without the Mayor's signature.

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8 Form Approved:

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10 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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