

1 Introduced by Council Members Bowman, Diamond, Howland, Salem, Newby,
2 Freeman, White, Ferraro, Boylan, Carlucci and Pittman and Co-
3 Sponsored by Council Members Becton, Carrico, DeFoor, Clark-Murray
4 and Morgan:
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7 **RESOLUTION 2023-379-A**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING JON ROBERT PHILLIPS UPON
9 HIS RETIREMENT FOR HIS DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE
10 CITY IN THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL; PROVIDING
11 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
12

13 **WHEREAS,** Jon Robert Phillips graduated cum laude from Tulane
14 University, and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of
15 Florida College of Law. After law school, he worked in Gainesville
16 in private practice, and then as a prosecutor for three years before
17 moving to Jacksonville in 1987; and

18 **WHEREAS,** prior to joining the General Counsel's Office, Mr.
19 Phillips practiced as an Assistant State Attorney in Jacksonville
20 from 1987 to 2001, where he specialized in the prosecution of homicide
21 cases. His positions included Director of Circuit Court, Director of
22 County Court, Director of Special Prosecutions, Deputy Director of
23 Repeat Offender Court, and Division Chief of Public Corruption and
24 Special Operations; and

25 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Phillips also volunteered his time to mentor and
26 help shape the path of his fellow attorneys, both as an adjunct
27 professor at the Criminal Clinic at Florida Coastal School of Law,
28 and as a lecturer teaching prosecutors about trial techniques and
29 expert witness cross-examinations; and

30 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Phillips previously served as a member of the
31 Fourth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee, the Florida Bar Criminal

1 Standard Jury Instructions Committee, the Florida Prosecuting
2 Attorneys Association Education Committee, the Mayor's Sexual Assault
3 Advisory Council, and the Florida Bar Unlicensed Practice of Law
4 Committee for the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts of Florida; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Phillips joined the General Counsel's Office in
6 May 2002. He took charge of the General Litigation Department in
7 March 2014, representing all City departments and the independent
8 agencies in state and federal courts, and before administrative
9 agencies and arbitration panels; and

10 **WHEREAS,** on June 2, 2023, Mr. Phillips retired from the Office
11 of General Counsel after steadfastly serving the City for twenty-one
12 years. During his tenure, he consistently exhibited professionalism
13 while handling the varied and vast matters in the Office of General
14 Counsel and maintained an unflappable demeanor when facing the more
15 challenging circumstances associated with litigation. Mr. Phillips
16 enriched the Office of General Counsel with his expertise and
17 dedication, and he delivered first-rate legal guidance to all sectors
18 of our consolidated government for more than two decades; now
19 therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
22 commends Jon Robert Phillips for his esteemed legal career and his
23 decades of service to the City in the Office of General Counsel. The
24 City Council extends appreciation to Mr. Phillips for all he has done
25 to support our City government and wishes the best for him and his
26 family upon his retirement.

27 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
29 without the Mayor's signature.
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1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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