

1 Introduced by Council Members Salem and Amaro:
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4 **ORDINANCE 2023-793**

5 AN ORDINANCE NAMING THE CITY-OWNED BUILDING
6 LOCATED AT 6360 COMMERCE STREET, JACKSONVILLE,
7 FLORIDA 32211, IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 1, PURSUANT
8 TO SECTION 122.105 (PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PUBLIC
9 FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PARKS NAMING AND RENAMING
10 PROCEDURES), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO BE KNOWN AS THE
11 "RITA F. REAGAN BUILDING"; PROVIDING AN
12 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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14 **WHEREAS**, Rita F. Reagan was a historical preservationist and
15 urban pioneer who worked tirelessly to preserve the historic fabric
16 of Jacksonville, with a particular focus on the remaining historic
17 structures and properties that played an integral part in
18 Jacksonville's heyday as the "Winter Film Capital of the World"; and

19 **WHEREAS**, among her many accomplishments, Rita Reagan is
20 credited with playing an integral part in the campaign to convince
21 the City to purchase the Norman Studios site in Arlington; a goal
22 that was realized when the City purchased the historic complex, minus
23 the set building on Commerce Street, in 2002; and

24 **WHEREAS**, for almost two decades Mrs. Reagan was deeply involved
25 in the preservation of Norman Studios, first as part of the Old
26 Arlington, Inc. initiative to save the silent film complex, then as
27 a founding member of Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc.; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc., was created
29 in 2007 with a mission to preserve and restore the entire studio
30 complex, recognizing it as the only surviving race film studio in
31 America, while also conducting educational outreach to honor the

1 studios' unique place in history; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville recently accomplished its
3 goal to reunify the entire historic Norman Studios complex when it
4 acquired two parcels on the corner of Arlington Road and Shackleton
5 Road, one of which included the original set building; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the set building, located at 6360 Commerce Street,
7 Jacksonville, Florida 32211 in Council District 1, is both a Local
8 and National Historic Landmark and is where most of the on-site
9 filming took place; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Rita Reagan served for several years as President and
11 Pro Bono Executive Director of the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum
12 and was instrumental in successfully preserving and restoring the
13 studio complex which celebrated the opening of Phase 1 of the Norman
14 Studios Silent Film Museum in the Studios' production building in
15 August after years of renovations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to name the historic set
17 building at Norman Studios the "Rita F. Reagan Building" to honor the
18 significant service and contributions Mrs. Reagan made to the
19 Jacksonville community, and to acknowledge her legacy as the primary
20 preservationist of Norman Studios; and

21 **WHEREAS**, this action by the City Council is supported by the
22 Norman Studios Silent Film Museum Board of Directors as reflected in
23 Board Resolution 2023-11-03 dated November 3, 2023, attached hereto
24 as **Exhibit 1**, and the Board of Directors of the Jacksonville
25 Historical Society and Jacksonville History Center as reflected in a
26 letter from Dr. Alan J. Bliss dated October 25, 2023, attached hereto
27 as **Exhibit 2**; now therefore

28 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

29 **Section 1.** The building located at 6360 Commerce Street,
30 Jacksonville, Florida 32211 in Council District 1 is hereby named the
31 "Rita F. Reagan Building" in accordance with the procedures set forth

1 in Section 122.105, *Ordinance Code*. The Parks, Recreation and
2 Community Services Department, in coordination with Norman Studios
3 Silent Film Museum, Inc., will be responsible for maintenance and
4 upkeep of the entire Norman Studios complex in accordance with the
5 terms of the Partnership Agreement between the City of Jacksonville
6 and Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc. dated February 11, 2013.

7 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
8 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
9 without the Mayor's signature.

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11 Form Approved:

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13 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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