

1 Introduced by Council Members Howland, Carrico, Johnson, Lahnen,
2 White, Pittman, Boylan, Freeman, Amaro, Carlucci, Gaffney Jr., Salem,
3 Miller, Gay, Diamond, Arias, and J. Carlucci and Co-Sponsored by
4 Council Members Clark-Murray and Peluso and amended on the Floor of
5 Council:

6
7 **RESOLUTION 2026-46-A**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
9 PASSING OF JAMES G. BENNETT, P.E.; PROVIDING AN
10 EFFECTIVE DATE.

11
12 **WHEREAS**, James G. Bennett graduated from the University of
13 Florida in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and
14 was a licensed professional engineer; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Bennett served for many years with the Florida
16 Department of Transportation, including as Planning Manager for
17 District Two, encompassing 18 counties throughout North Florida; and

18 **WHEREAS**, James G. Bennett was a dedicated public servant,
19 elected to the Baker County Board of Commissioners in 2014 to
20 represent District 4; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Bennett joined JAXPORT in 2017 as Senior Director
22 of Engineering and Construction and was responsible for the port's
23 marine and landside infrastructure development and engineering and
24 construction operations; and in that position he managed the
25 completion of the 47-foot harbor deepening project, a \$100 million
26 project, and renovations to improve the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, Mr. Bennett was promoted to be the Chief
28 Operating Officer for JAXPORT, overseeing the port's three
29 operational divisions, its engineering and construction department,
30 the implementation of a capital growth program in excess of \$250
31 million annually, the expansion of Blount Island's container

1 terminal, and the port's vehicle-handling capabilities; and

2 **WHEREAS**, James G. Bennett also represented Baker County as a
3 liaison to the Northeast Florida Regional Council, North Florida
4 Regional Transportation Commission, the North Florida Transportation
5 Planning Organization, and the Small County Coalition; and

6 **WHEREAS**, James G. Bennett was known for his extraordinary
7 dedication, unmatched work ethic, commitment to his work and to his
8 team, and a spirit that elevated everyone around him; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Bennett tragically perished on Monday, December 8,
10 2025, in an automobile accident, and his loss will be felt by his
11 family, friends, colleagues, constituents, and all who had the honor
12 to know him; now therefore

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

14 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors the life and
15 mourns the passing of James G. Bennett. The Council appreciates the
16 expertise and acumen Mr. Bennett brought to JAXPORT, his decades of
17 service and leadership, and his unwavering dedication to improving
18 the quality of life for people in Northeast Florida.

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

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23 Form Approved:

24
25 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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