

1 Introduced by Council Member White:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-659**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING BATTALION
6 CHIEF DARIN HOOTEN OF THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND
7 RESCUE DEPARTMENT FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY
8 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ACHIEVEMENT OF
9 A CLASS 1 RATING BY THE INSURANCE SERVICES
10 OFFICE (ISO); PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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12 **WHEREAS**, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) is a company that
13 inspects and rates fire departments in a number of areas (including
14 fire suppression capacity, water supply availability, and management
15 of fire alarm calls based on criteria set by the ISO) and assigns
16 ratings from Class 10 to Class 1 designating the least to most
17 effective firefighting capability; and

18 **WHEREAS**, ISO ratings are universally recognized as the standard
19 by which fire departments are judged and are used by the insurance
20 industry to establish premiums for property insurance coverage based
21 on the degree of protection from loss that each class represents; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville has been steadily working toward the goal
23 of achieving a Class 1 rating citywide through the strategies such
24 as the construction of new fire stations in areas with long response
25 times, adding additional personnel and equipment, extending water
26 lines, and the like. After years of improvements the Fire and Rescue
27 Department requested a re-rating by the ISO to determine the success
28 of those efforts; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Battalion Chief Darin Hooten was assigned as the lead
30 of the ISO Re-rate project for over 18 months, during which he worked
31 tirelessly: coordinating the massive project to collect, organize and

1 verify the reams of documentation of policies, procedures, equipment,
2 plans, mutual assistance agreements, and other factors that drive the
3 ISO ratings; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Chief Hooten worked with representatives from JEA, the
5 Beaches cities, Town of Baldwin, and two private utility companies
6 on the Westside to inspect, make repairs, and conduct flow tests on
7 thousands of fire hydrants. He also coordinated with private
8 corporations (CMC Steel, Montgomery Correctional, Winn Dixie, Cecil
9 Airport, FANG, etc.) to ensure access to their facility water sources.
10 ISO requested hundreds of on-site flow tests for the inspection and
11 the preparations paid off in the form of a high rating in this
12 category; and

13 **WHEREAS**, with regard to equipment, Chief Hooten was able to
14 identify any equipment/hose weaknesses and remedy the issue by
15 purchasing equipment that met the requirements or amend the way the
16 department deployed some equipment. As an example of the extent of
17 the preparations needed for the re-rating, Chief Hooten tasked JFRD's
18 Tactical Support with pump testing engines and tankers and the ladder
19 trucks require a non-destructive aerial test. On the inspection day,
20 ISO asked to see the testing documents for approximately 50 units and
21 JFRD received full credit in this area; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the ISO inspection included an evaluation of building
23 inspections completed by the Fire Prevention division. This was an
24 extremely difficult task due to COVID restrictions imposed, however,
25 under the direction of Chief Hooten, Fire Prevention completed
26 inspections when they were able and documented when they were not
27 able. Hundreds of inspections were shown to ISO during the inspection.
28 In addition, Chief Hooten ensured JFRD had loaded fire pre-plans,
29 alternate water sources, calls in progress, and multiple other
30 information sources on the mobile dispatch terminals (laptops) in the
31 units to demonstrate to ISO the JFRD's information sources to ensure

1 the most efficient response to structure fires; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Chief Hooten was also responsible for countless other
3 tasks, including coordinating the documentation of Automatic Aid
4 agreements with fire departments in adjoining jurisdictions,
5 documenting completed training by JFRD personnel, ensuring the
6 updating of standard operating procedures, and many other facets of
7 the re-rating process; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the massive team effort headed by Chief Hooten paid off
9 when the ISO assigned JFRD a Class 1 rating, making it the largest
10 Class 1 rated fire department in the country, which is estimated to
11 save property owners over \$240 million in insurance premiums because
12 of the quality of protection provided by the department; now therefore

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

14 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and thanks
15 JFRD Battalion Chief Darin Hooten for his extraordinary contributions
16 over the last 2 years to the ISO re-rating process which resulted in
17 such a successful outcome. His dedication, attention to detail, and
18 tireless coordination efforts achieved an outstanding outcome for the
19 department and the city, and the City Council and the citizens of
20 Jacksonville are extremely appreciative of his efforts.

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

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26 Form Approved:

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28 _____/s/ Paige H. Johnston

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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