

1 Introduced by Council Member Gay:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2025-230**

5 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL'S
6 OPPOSITION TO THE OPENING OF ANY PORTION OF
7 PUMPKIN HILL CREEK, LOCATED IN THE PUMPKIN HILL
8 CREEK PRESERVE STATE PARK, TO ALLOW RECREATIONAL
9 AND COMMERCIAL SHRIMP HARVESTING; DIRECTING THE
10 CHIEF OF THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION TO
11 FORWARD A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA
12 FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
13 IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS ADOPTION; REQUESTING
14 EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING
15 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
16

17 **WHEREAS,** Pumpkin Hill Creek is located in the Pumpkin Hill
18 Creek Preserve State Park which is part of a larger area known as the
19 Seven Creeks Recreation Area, managed through a partnership between
20 the National Park Service, the City of Jacksonville and the North
21 Florida Land Trust, and encompasses 5,600 acres of contiguous
22 conservation lands in northeast Jacksonville; and

23 **WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville Waterways Commission (the "JWC") is
24 committed to the protection of the waterways of Jacksonville and
25 works in cooperation with multiple state and federal agencies,
26 including the State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
27 Commission (the "FWC"), to study and make recommendations to the City
28 Council with respect to the improvement, development and protection
29 of the St. Johns River and all tidal waters in Duval County; and

30 **WHEREAS,** in May 2024, the FWC approved updates to the rules
31 pertaining to shrimp harvesting to reorganize and clarify regulations

1 related to shrimping in Florida waters; the FWC received requests
2 from stakeholders for multiple regulation changes that would increase
3 shrimp harvest opportunities in northeast Florida; and

4 **WHEREAS**, after the FWC staff conducted small group meetings,
5 field visits, ride-alongs with commercial shrimp harvesters, and two
6 public workshops to gather feedback on these requests, the FWC
7 recommended opening a section of Pumpkin Hill Creek, a tributary of
8 the Nassau River, to allow recreational and commercial shrimp
9 harvesting from September through December each year, thus increasing
10 harvestable areas; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the FWC did not include the JWC as an interested
12 stakeholder in its discussions, nor did it allow a forum for public
13 input provided through the JWC; and

14 **WHEREAS**, at the March 13, 2025, meeting of the JWC, the Chair
15 brought the Pumpkin Hill Creek issue to the attention of the JWC, and
16 the JWC unanimously voted that the Chair request the Jacksonville
17 City Council pass a Resolution expressing opposition to FWC's
18 recommendation; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the FWC will meet on May 21, 2025, to hold the final
20 vote on its recommendation to update rule language to allow
21 residential and commercial shrimp harvesting in Pumpkin Hill Creek;
22 and

23 **WHEREAS**, the City Council strongly encourages representatives
24 from the FWC to attend the next scheduled meeting of the JWC on April
25 10, 2025, to discuss the opening of Pumpkin Hill Creek to shrimp
26 harvesting and to allow public input through the JWC forum prior to
27 the FWC's May 21, 2025, meeting; now therefore

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

29 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby expresses its opposition
30 to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's
31 recommendation to open a section of Pumpkin Hill Creek for

1 recreational and commercial shrimp harvesting from September through
2 December each year. The City Council strongly encourages
3 representatives of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
4 Commission to attend the April 10, 2025, meeting of the Jacksonville
5 Waterways Commission in order to provide the JWC an opportunity to
6 gather more information and facts, and to provide a public forum to
7 discuss the potential impacts the proposed rule change may have on
8 the citizens and the waterways of Jacksonville and Duval County.

9 **Section 2. Directive to Chief of Legislative Services**
10 **Division.** The City Council hereby directs the Chief of the Legislative
11 Services Division to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Florida
12 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission immediately upon its
13 adoption.

14 **Section 3. Requesting Emergency Passage upon Introduction**
15 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
16 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
17 emergency is to provide ample notice of the request for
18 representatives of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
19 Commission to attend the April 10, 2025, meeting of the Jacksonville
20 Waterways Commission.

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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25 Form Approved:

26
27 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Shannon M^acGillis

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