

1 Introduced by Council Members Peluso, Clark-Murray, Boylan and Gay:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-262**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING CAPTAIN
6 MIKE GETCHELL ON HIS WORK FOR JACKSONVILLE'S
7 WATERWAYS AND PORT COMMUNITIES IN HIS MORE THAN
8 FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
9 RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS,** Captain Mike Getchell began his career in the
12 waterways community in 1978; and

13 **WHEREAS,** Captain Getchell has long stood as a trusted
14 coordinator and communicator in bringing various stakeholders
15 together, including the United States Coast Guard, the National
16 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"), the United States
17 Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Navy, and the City of
18 Jacksonville, who all have an interest in Jacksonville's waterways
19 to resolve waterway safety issues and navigational challenges; and

20 **WHEREAS,** through his efforts in conducting multiple risk
21 assessments, at the request of the Army Corps of Engineers, Captain
22 Getchell was able to develop a thorough list of mitigation efforts
23 to increase navigational safety; and

24 **WHEREAS,** Captain Getchell has maintained a steady presence in
25 the waterways community over the decades, consistently attending
26 Jacksonville Waterways Commission ("JWC") meetings and serving as the
27 maritime representative on the NOAA's Southeast Implementation Team;
28 and

29 **WHEREAS,** through his service to JWC and NOAA, Captain Getchell
30 has been a fierce advocate for marine wildlife, having been
31 instrumental in the development and implementation of the Manatee

1 Protection Program for JWC and in the Recovery Plan for the North
2 Atlantic Right Whale for NOAA; and

3 **WHEREAS,** each year, Captain Getchell has coordinated a meeting
4 of various waterways stakeholders in preparing for the upcoming
5 hurricane season and established the protocol to assist the Captain
6 of the Port to reopen waterways following any storm; and

7 **WHEREAS,** Captain Getchell worked to secure a \$2.8 million Port
8 Security grant in 2012 for the installation of a Physical
9 Oceanographic Real-Time System, which is a decision-support tool
10 consisting of 27 strategically-placed sensors along the river that
11 greatly improved the safety and efficiency of maritime commerce and
12 coastal resource management; and

13 **WHEREAS,** Captain Getchell has decided to retire after more
14 than four decades of service to the Jacksonville waterways community;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville Waterways Commission honored Captain
17 Getchell for his accomplishments ahead of his retirement at its
18 meeting on March 14, 2024, and expressed interest in formally
19 recognizing him via Resolution; now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors Captain Mike
22 Getchell and commends him for the tireless work that he has done to
23 bring people together to keep Jacksonville's waterways open and safe.
24 Recognizing that his commitment to improve navigational safety in the
25 Port of Jacksonville will be sorely missed but not soon forgotten,
26 the City Council expresses its gratitude for the work that Captain
27 Getchell has done for Jacksonville's waterways over the past 46 years,
28 its congratulations on his retirement, and its best wishes for his
29 continued happiness long into retirement.

30 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
31 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective

1 without the Mayor's signature.

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3 Form Approved:

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5 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

6 Office of General Counsel

7 Legislation Prepared By: Eamon Webb, City Council Research

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