1 Introduced by Council Member Diamond:

RESOLUTION 2021-568

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE
BEACH; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Neptune was originally named by land speculator Eugene Gilbert in 1885, who advertised it as "The City By The Sea". Present-day Neptune Beach was originally incorporated as part of the City of Pablo Beach, which later became Jacksonville Beach; and

WHEREAS, the name "Neptune Beach" derived from a railroad station constructed in 1922 by Dan G. Wheeler at the end of Atlantic Boulevard to serve as a stop on the Jacksonville to Mayport rail line, located where the Seahorse Inn is now; and

WHEREAS, in 1931, there were approximately 70 cottages in Neptune Beach, mostly summer residences owned by Jacksonville residents. In 1931, the homeowners led a movement to secede from Jacksonville Beach, largely as a revolt over a special tax levy. On August 11, 1931, Neptune Beach property owners went to the Gulf filling station on Atlantic Boulevard and voted 113-31 to separate from Jacksonville Beach and form its own town, which was incorporated as the City of Neptune Beach. The government met in Wheeler's old train station until a new town hall was completed in 1935; and

WHEREAS, for its first 45 years, Neptune Beach grew slowly. When the consolidation referendum for the City of Jacksonville and Duval County was held in 1967, residents of Neptune Beach approved the consolidation of the city and county as residents of Duval

County, but also voted to retain their status as an independent city with their own mayor, council, and city services; and

WHEREAS, the city of 2.5 square miles has grown from 70 cottages to the home to 7,500 residents, with 31 acres of parks and 1.2 miles of beaches. Neptune Beach residents appreciate the residential character of the community and the beach lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the City of Neptune Beach is planning for the future, and strives to conserve, utilize, and protect its natural resources for generations to come. The City was honored recently by the American Planning Association, Florida Chapter, for an APA Florida Award of Excellence in the Best Practices category for their submission "The City of Neptune Beach: A Model City for Inclusive Planning and Coastal Resiliency Through Vision Planning and Responsive, Innovative Policies", selected for its innovative and approach to engaging the public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jacksonville wishes to recognize this important anniversary in the history of its fellow city; now therefore

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

Section 1. The City of Jacksonville hereby commemorates the 90th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Neptune Beach and congratulates the Mayor, City Council, employees and citizens of Neptune Beach on this important milestone. The City of Jacksonville extends its best wishes for continued prosperity and success as a partner in serving our mutual constituents.

Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction pursuant to Council Rule 4.901. Emergency passage upon introduction of this Resolution is requested so that this Resolution may be presented to the City of Neptune Beach in a timely manner for the 90th Anniversary on August 11, 2021.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1   effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective

2   without the Mayor's signature.

3   Form Approved:

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5   ___/s/ Paige H. Johnston___

6   Office of General Counsel

7   Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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