

1 Introduced by Council Member Ferraro:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-523**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING UNIVERSITY  
6 OF NORTH FLORIDA STUDENT MORGAN RAY ON WINNING  
7 A SILVER MEDAL IN THE MEN'S 100-METER  
8 BREASTSTROKE IN THE 2022 WORLD PARA SWIMMING  
9 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PORTUGAL; PROVIDING AN  
10 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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12 **WHEREAS**, Morgan Ray, a St. Johns County native, graduated from  
13 Bartram Trail High School and is currently a rising sophomore at the  
14 University of North Florida (UNF); and

15 **WHEREAS**, shortly after his birth, Mr. Ray was diagnosed with  
16 achondroplasia, a genetic condition that affects the development of  
17 bone tissue and is the most frequent form of dwarfism, which caused  
18 him to stop growing at the age of 6; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Morgan Ray has spent most of his life swimming  
20 competitively, first in the River City Swim League, then on the  
21 Bartram Trail swim team, and subsequently training with coach Cameron  
22 Bendetsen and the Bolles Sharks swim team as UNF does not sponsor a  
23 men's swimming team; and

24 **WHEREAS**, inspired by a meeting with Gainesville, Florida native  
25 Miranda Uhl, another swimmer with achondroplasia who won a gold medal  
26 in the women's 200 individual medley during the 2008 Paralympics in  
27 Beijing, Mr. Ray has trained intensively for years with the goal of  
28 being a medal contender at the Paralympics and other international  
29 competitions; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Morgan Ray made his national-level breakthrough at the  
31 Paralympic Canadian-American Open Swimming Championships in December

1 2017 in Charlotte, winning four gold medals and shortly thereafter  
2 qualifying for USA Swimming's national team; and

3 **WHEREAS**, after missing out on his goal of Paralympic competition  
4 in 2020 in Tokyo with the cancellation of the event due to the COVID  
5 pandemic, Mr. Ray qualified for the recent World Para Swimming  
6 Championships on the island of Madeira, Portugal and brought home a  
7 silver medal in the men's 100-meter breaststroke from the competition;  
8 now therefore

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

10 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and congratulates  
11 UNF rising sophomore Morgan Ray on his recent silver medal performance  
12 at the World Para Swimming Championships and commends him on his  
13 perseverance and determination to overcome obstacles and become a  
14 world-class athlete. His example is an inspiration to all manner of  
15 aspiring athletes, and the Council extends its best wishes to Mr. Ray  
16 for much success in his future academic and athletic endeavors.

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

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22 Form Approved:

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25 \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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