

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-612**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING GARRETT  
6 SCANTLING ON HIS SELECTION TO THE 2020 U.S.  
7 OLYMPIC TEAM AS A DECATHLETE; PROVIDING AN  
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville native Garrett Scantling graduated from  
11 Hendricks Avenue Elementary School and the Episcopal School of  
12 Jacksonville, where he was an outstanding multi-sport athlete, and  
13 earned his bachelor's degree in financial planning at the University  
14 of Georgia which he attended on a track and field scholarship; and

15 **WHEREAS**, despite never having competed in an official decathlon,  
16 which is not an event sponsored by the Florida High School Athletic  
17 Association, Mr. Scantling excelled in the event from his first meet  
18 as a Georgia Bulldog freshman, achieving a score that ranked him  
19 fifth on Georgia's all-time decathlon performance list. Over the  
20 course of his years of competition at Georgia his performances  
21 continued to improve to the point where in his junior season he  
22 finished fourth in the NCAA Championship in the event and in 2016 was  
23 invited to participate in the decathlon at Hypo-Meeting in Götztis,  
24 Austria, one of the world's most prestigious decathlon and pentathlon  
25 events; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in 2016 Mr. Scantling finished fourth in the trial for  
27 a place on the U.S. track and field team, just missing out on a trip  
28 to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, and retired from the sport. After  
29 tryouts as a wide receiver with the Atlanta Falcons and Jacksonville  
30 Jaguars, he took a job as a financial planner, but still harbored the  
31 dream of resurrecting his decathlon career for another try at an

1 Olympic team berth; and

2       **WHEREAS**, in 2019 Garrett Scantling returned to the University  
3 of Georgia as an assistant track and field coach and resumed training  
4 for a restart of his Olympic decathlon dream. The delay of the 2020  
5 Tokyo Summer Olympics to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic gave him  
6 the opportunity to have surgery to repair an ankle injury and to  
7 spend another year regaining his previous form, and in June 2021 at  
8 historic Hayward Field at the University of Oregon he placed first  
9 at the Olympic trials to lead the U.S. decathletes to Tokyo; and

10       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Scantling performed extremely well in Tokyo,  
11 finishing fifth or better in six of the ten events to earn a total  
12 score of 8,611, placing him fourth in the overall standings and  
13 narrowly missing out on the bronze medal; now therefore

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

15       **Section 1.**       The City hereby honors and commends Garrett  
16 Scantling on his selection to the United States' 2020 Summer Olympic  
17 team as a decathlete and commends him on his outstanding performance  
18 at the games. Mr. Scantling's achievement demonstrates the power of  
19 perseverance and belief in oneself to overcome obstacles and achieve  
20 long-held dreams. His performance will be an inspiration to many who  
21 hear his story of persistence in chasing a dream.

22       **Section 2.       Effective Date.**   This Resolution shall become  
23 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
24 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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