

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Howland, Amaro, Lahnen, Salem,
2 Pittman, Gay, Miller and Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council Member
3 Arias:

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6 **RESOLUTION 2025-298-A**

7 A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSITY OF
8 FLORIDA'S VICTORY IN THE 2025 NCAA MEN'S
9 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AND RECOGNIZING THE
10 GATORS HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT, ATHLETIC
11 EXCELLENCE, AND ENDURING IMPACT ON JACKSONVILLE;
12 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

13
14 **WHEREAS**, on April 7, 2025, the University of Florida Gators
15 made history with a heart-stopping 65-63 comeback victory over the
16 Houston Cougars at the Alamodome, claiming their third NCAA Men's
17 Basketball National Championship title; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Gators electrified fans across the nation as
19 senior guard Walter Clayton, Jr., delivered 11 second-half points,
20 supported by standout performances from Will Richard and Alex Condon
21 in a game for the ages; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Coach Todd Golden, at just 39 years old, cemented his
23 place in college basketball history as the youngest head coach to win
24 a national title since 1983, leading this championship team with
25 vision and tenacity; and

26 **WHEREAS**, this championship not only adds another trophy to the
27 Gators' legacy but also shines a spotlight on a tradition of
28 excellence that includes Stacey Poole, Sr., Vernon Maxwell, Udonis
29 Haslem, and Corey Brewer, icons whose impact continues to echo in
30 sports and beyond; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the University of Florida's growing footprint in

1 Jacksonville's educational landscape, including its expanded downtown
2 presence, reinforces its commitment to academic leadership, community
3 engagement, and opportunity for all; and

4 **WHEREAS,** the influence of the University of Florida stretches
5 far beyond "The Swamp", inspiring generations and fostering deep ties
6 with our City, including connections to families like the Gaffneys,
7 who are woven into the fabric of Jacksonville's civic leadership; and

8 **WHEREAS,** the Gators have shown the world that they are not
9 only champions on the court but also trailblazers in education,
10 innovation, and community pride, making this victory a celebration
11 for all of Jacksonville and the entire Gator Nation; now therefore

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

13 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby congratulates the
14 University of Florida for winning the 2025 NCAA Men's Basketball
15 Championship and celebrates the team's extraordinary achievement,
16 sportsmanship, and enduring impact.

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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21 Form Approved:

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23 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Nayeli Jimenez, City Council Research

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