

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Carrico:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-269**

5 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE JAX GENTS INC. FOR
6 WINNING THE 2025 STEPMETHEUS FLORIDA STATE STEP
7 CHAMPIONSHIP AS DIVISION AND GRAND STATE
8 CHAMPION AND HONORING THEIR TRANSFORMATIVE
9 IMPACT ON YOUNG MEN IN JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING
10 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
11

12 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, Jacksonville native Shomari "Mari" D. Gloster
13 planted a seed in the soil of our city, founding The Jax Gents Inc.,
14 a mentorship and leadership organization created to shape young men
15 into scholars, servants, and leaders through discipline, brotherhood,
16 and excellence; and

17 **WHEREAS**, what began as a vision to uplift young men across
18 Jacksonville quickly grew into a powerful movement, providing
19 mentorship, academic support, leadership development, and cultural
20 enrichment to high school students through monthly meetings,
21 community service initiatives, and competitive stepping that
22 celebrates the proud tradition of Black Greek letter organizations
23 and African American cultural expression; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Jax Gents have become a beacon of possibility,
25 achieving a remarkable 100 percent high school graduation and college
26 acceptance rate among its participants, demonstrating that mentorship
27 paired with expectation creates a pathway to greatness for young men
28 across our community; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the art of stepping traces its lineage to the Gumboot
30 dances of South African miners, who used rhythmic stomping, clapping,
31 and body percussion as a coded language of unity and resistance, a

1 tradition that evolved through African American fraternities and
2 sororities into the modern form of stepping, where rhythm, discipline,
3 and brotherhood converge to tell stories of heritage, perseverance,
4 and cultural pride; and

5 **WHEREAS**, at the Stepmetheus Florida State Step Championship held
6 at Kathleen High School in Lakeland, Florida, the Jax Gents delivered
7 a performance that electrified the arena, presenting their powerful
8 routine titled "Martin at Nipsey's" a tribute that bridged generations
9 of leadership and cultural influence while showcasing their
10 precision, creativity, and unity; and

11 **WHEREAS**, against elite all-male step programs from across the
12 State of Florida, the Jax Gents rose to the top, claiming both the
13 Division Championship and the coveted title of Grand State Champion,
14 an extraordinary achievement that placed Jacksonville firmly on the
15 map of competitive stepping excellence; and

16 **WHEREAS**, their victory earned them the opportunity to represent
17 the State of Florida at the Stomp Wars National Step Show, one of the
18 premier step competitions in the nation, further elevating the
19 reputation of the young men and the city they proudly represent; and

20 **WHEREAS**, beyond the stage and spotlight, the Jax Gents continue
21 their deeper work, mentoring young men to become scholars, community
22 leaders, and examples of discipline, purpose, and brotherhood,
23 reminding our city that the rhythm of progress is often carried
24 forward by those willing to step together toward a brighter future;
25 now therefore

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

27 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby proudly commends The Jax
28 Gents Inc., Founder and Executive Director Shomari "Mari" D. Gloster,
29 and the entire leadership team and membership for their extraordinary
30 commitment to mentorship, scholarship, and community uplift. The City
31 Council congratulates the Jax Gents on capturing the 2025 Stepmetheus

1 Florida State Step Championship Division Title and Grand State
2 Championship, recognizing their victory as a moment of pride not only
3 for their organization, but for the entire City of Jacksonville. The
4 Jacksonville City Council celebrates the Jax Gents as living proof
5 that when young men are guided by purpose, surrounded by brotherhood,
6 and challenged toward excellence, they do not simply follow rhythm,
7 they create it.

8 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
9 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
10 without the Mayor's signature.

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12 Form Approved:

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14 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

15 Office of General Counsel

16 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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