

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-353**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE 100TH
6 ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANDARIN COMMUNITY CLUB AND
7 ITS CENTURY OF SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
8 MANDARIN COMMUNITY AND JACKSONVILLE'S QUALITY OF
9 LIFE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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11 **WHEREAS**, in 1916, civic-minded and patriotic Mandarin
12 residents founded the Mandarin Liberty League prior to the nation's
13 1917 entry into World War I and created projects to assist in the
14 nation's war effort through the promotion of liberty loan drives and
15 patriotic parades, as well as support for increased food production
16 in rural Mandarin; and

17 **WHEREAS**, on July 2, 1923, several years after the war's
18 conclusion, the Liberty League decided to change its name to the
19 Mandarin Community Club to reflect its evolving mission to serve
20 Mandarin's civic and cultural concerns. The newly formed club elected
21 officers, selecting the same individuals who served in the Liberty
22 League; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in its earliest years, the club focused on improving
24 roads and securing electricity for the community, eventually
25 succeeding when Mandarin celebrated the arrival of electric access
26 on June 5, 1936; and in 1938 the club took ownership of the half-
27 century old Mandarin School, built through the efforts of celebrated
28 author Harriet Beecher Stowe, and the club has since restored and
29 maintained the historic school, now known as the Mandarin Community
30 Club; and

31 **WHEREAS**, in the club's 100 year history its contributions

1 include: protecting and promoting Mandarin's natural environment;
2 hosting thousands of community meetings, programs and events;
3 founding, supporting and housing Mandarin's first library; publishing
4 Mandarin history, including the revered books *Mandarin on the St.*
5 *Johns* and *Palmetto Leaves*; organizing blood drives dating back 70
6 years; establishing the Mandarin Art Festival in 1968; purchasing the
7 Mandarin Post Office and Store, now a museum and a National Register
8 Site; protecting the line of Patriarch Oak trees along Mandarin Road;
9 establishing the Billard Commemorative Park to recognize area
10 veterans; acquiring the Sisters of St. Joseph "one-room" School as a
11 gift to the community; holding an annual tree giveaway; and
12 celebrating the December holidays with a community tree lighting on
13 the club's historic properties; and

14 **WHEREAS,** the club has originated and housed many Mandarin
15 groups, including the Mandarin Volunteer Fire Department; the
16 Mandarin Well Baby Clinic; the Mandarin Garden Club, the Mandarin
17 Orange Pickers Baseball Team; the Mandarin Players theater company;
18 and the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society; and

19 **WHEREAS,** on July 2, 2023, the Mandarin Community Club
20 celebrates its 100th anniversary; now therefore

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

22 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commemorates the
23 100th anniversary of the Mandarin Community Club and recognizes the
24 club's contributions to the Mandarin community and to Jacksonville's
25 quality of life. The City Council extends its gratitude for the club's
26 century of community service.

27 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
29 without the Mayor's signature.
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1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Cory Armstrong, City Council Research

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