

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Carrico and Co-Sponsored
2 by Council Members Freeman and Pittman and amended by the Rules
3 Committee:

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6 **RESOLUTION 2026-269-A**

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

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

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

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

31 **WHEREAS**, the art of stepping traces its lineage to the Gumboot

1 dances of South African miners, who used rhythmic stomping, clapping,
2 and body percussion as a coded language of unity and resistance, a
3 tradition that evolved through African American fraternities and
4 sororities into the modern form of stepping, where rhythm, discipline,
5 and brotherhood converge to tell stories of heritage, perseverance,
6 and cultural pride; and

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

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

18 **WHEREAS**, in April, competing on the national stage in Dallas,
19 Texas, at the prestigious Stomp Wars National Step Show, one of the
20 premier step competitions in the United States, the Jax Gents proudly
21 represented the State of Florida and once again demonstrated unmatched
22 precision, discipline, and cultural artistry, earning the title of
23 National Champions for the second time, a historic achievement that
24 not only affirms their dominance in the art of stepping but also
25 elevates the reputation of these young men and positions the City of
26 Jacksonville as a national leader in youth excellence, performance,
27 and cultural expression; and

28 **WHEREAS**, beyond the stage and spotlight, the Jax Gents continue
29 their deeper work, mentoring young men to become scholars, community
30 leaders, and examples of discipline, purpose, and brotherhood,
31 reminding our city that the rhythm of progress is often carried

1 forward by those willing to step together toward a brighter future;
2 now therefore

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

4 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby proudly commends The Jax
5 Gents Inc., Founder and Executive Director Shomari "Mari" D. Gloster,
6 and the entire leadership team and membership for their extraordinary
7 commitment to mentorship, scholarship, and community uplift. The City
8 Council congratulates the Jax Gents on capturing the 2025 Stepmetheus
9 Florida State Step Championship Division Title and Grand State
10 Championship, recognizing their victory as a moment of pride not only
11 for their organization, but for the entire City of Jacksonville. The
12 Jacksonville City Council celebrates the Jax Gents as living proof
13 that when young men are guided by purpose, surrounded by brotherhood,
14 and challenged toward excellence, they do not simply follow rhythm,
15 they create it.

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

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20 Form Approved:

21
22 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

23 Office of General Counsel

24 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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