

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Howland, Amaro, Lahnen, Salem,
2 Pittman, Gay, Miller and Freeman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-298**

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

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

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

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

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

30 **WHEREAS,** the University of Florida's growing footprint in
31 Jacksonville's educational landscape, including its expanded downtown

1 presence, reinforces its commitment to academic leadership, community
2 engagement, and opportunity for all; and

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

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

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

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

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:

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22 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

23 Office of General Counsel

24 Legislation Prepared By: Nayeli Jimenez, City Council Research

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