

1 Introduced by Council President Wilson and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Member Morgan and Bowman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2019-590**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE
7 LIFE AND COUNTLESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CIVIC
8 LEADER JACK DIAMOND; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
9 DATE.

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Jack Diamond, a native of Columbus, Ohio, earned his
12 bachelor's degree in architecture from The Ohio State University
13 where he was awarded the architecture school's highest honor - the
14 Alpha Rho Chi award for leadership, service and merit - before
15 joining the U.S. Navy, graduating from Officer Candidate School and
16 serving in the Civil Engineer Corps; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Diamond moved to Jacksonville in 1970 to join KBJ
18 Architects, one of the city's most prestigious architectural firms,
19 and spend the succeeding four decades playing a major role in
20 producing some of the most well-known icons of the city's skyline,
21 including the Southbank's Prudential Complex, the Bell South Tower
22 (now TIAA Bank Center), the Bryan Simpson Federal Courthouse, the
23 Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, and numerous buildings
24 at the University of North Florida. After 27 years with KBJ, the
25 last 14 as President, he started Diamond Architects which later
26 merged with Rink Reynolds and Fisher to eventually become the Rink
27 Design Partnership, Inc.; and

28 **WHEREAS**, throughout his decades in Jacksonville, Jack Diamond
29 was known as "Mr. Downtown" for his unflagging advocacy for the
30 improvement of the city's urban core. He participated in the
31 development of Downtown Master Plans in 1987, 1992 and 2000 and

1 made countless presentations to City, Chamber of Commerce, civic
2 and social organizations trying to build understanding of and
3 support for the importance of a healthy, vital downtown to the city
4 and region's economy, attractiveness and self-image; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in addition to his professional activities and
6 tireless advocacy for downtown redevelopment, Mr. Diamond was
7 incredibly active in community and civic affairs. Among many
8 others, he chaired the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary
9 Club of Jacksonville, the University of North Florida Foundation,
10 the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, Hospice of Northeast
11 Florida, the United Way Campaign, and Visit Jacksonville, and he
12 was a founding member of JaxPride, a civic group advocating for
13 removal of visual blight and cleaning up the city; and

14 **WHEREAS**, apart from all of his professional and civic
15 accomplishments, Jack Diamond was a visionary dedicated to his
16 city's growth and improvement and a great friend to all who knew
17 him; now therefore

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

19 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
20 commemorates the life and countless professional and civic
21 accomplishments of architect and civic promoter Jack Diamond, and
22 extends to his family and many friends the City's most sincere
23 condolences on his passing. His legacy will live on in the
24 buildings he designed and the love and great hopes he had for
25 Jacksonville.

26 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
27 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
28 without the Mayor's signature.

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Form Approved:

/s/ Margaret M. Sidman

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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