

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Howland, Amaro, Freeman and Johnson:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2024-389-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING SWISHER
7 (FORMERLY SWISHER INTERNATIONAL INC.) ON ITS 100
8 YEARS IN JACKSONVILLE AND 162ND YEAR OF OVERALL
9 OPERATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Swisher, a family-owned company established in 1861,
12 relocated its corporate and manufacturing headquarters from Newark,
13 Ohio, to Jacksonville's Springfield neighborhood in 1924, creating
14 what would become the world's largest cigar manufacturing facility
15 under one roof by 1941; and

16 **WHEREAS**, over the past century, Swisher is credited with
17 transforming the cigar industry with innovative manufacturing
18 techniques including the introduction of "fresh work" cigar rolling
19 machines in 1924 and the first individually cellophane-wrapped
20 cigars; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Swisher was the first company in the nation to
22 establish an industrial children's nursery in 1939, providing full-
23 service childcare for its employees; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the company's more than 6,000 employees across
25 Swisher's global footprint that includes the U.S., the Dominican
26 Republic and Nicaragua embody the company's core values of staying
27 curious, workplace inclusion, embracing risks, excellence always, and
28 being team focused in all that they do; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Swisher's commitment to innovation with respect to
30 proprietary manufacturing techniques, product quality, and customer
31 satisfaction has established the company as a leader in its industry.

1 Swisher Sweets Cigars, first introduced in 1958, remains the number
2 one selling cigar by volume in the world, and Drew Estate, which
3 produces the ACID brand of handcrafted, infused premium cigars, which
4 Swisher acquired in 2014; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Swisher remains a privately held, family-owned
6 company operated by multiple generations of the current ownership
7 family which acquired the company from the Swisher family in 1966.
8 The company's leadership and employees continue to advance the
9 company's century-plus legacy of philanthropic and civic engagement
10 which started with the Swisher family and continues today with current
11 ownership, through strategic partnerships and programs supporting our
12 nation's heroes and their families, and community vitality; now
13 therefore

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

15 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
16 Swisher for its 100 years in Jacksonville and 162 years in business
17 and for its services and commitment to the Jacksonville community.
18 The Council extends best wishes to the company and its ownership,
19 management and employees for the very best of continued success in
20 the years ahead.

21 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
22 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
23 without the Mayor's signature.

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25 Form Approved:

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27 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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